

NEOS Operation Center

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Abstract

This report covers the activities of the NEOS Operation Center at USNO for 2009. The Operation Center schedules IVS-R4 and the INT1 Intensive experiments.

1. VLBI Operations

In the period covered, NEOS operations consisted, each week, of one 24-hour duration IVS-R4 observing session, on Thursday-Friday, for Earth Orientation, together with five daily one-hour duration “Intensives” for UT1 determination, Monday through Friday. In 2009, the operational IVS-R4 network included VLBI stations at Kokee Park (Hawaii), Wettzell (Germany), Fortaleza (Brazil), Ny-Ålesund (Norway), TIGO (Chile), Svetloe, Badary and Zelenchukskaya (Russia), Hobart (Australia), Yebes (Spain), and Matera and Medicina (Italy). A typical R4 consisted of five to eight stations.

The regular stations for the weekday IVS Intensives were Kokee Park and Wettzell. Intensives including Kokee Park, Wettzell, and Svetloe were observed twice per month in order to characterize the Kokee Park – Svetloe baseline so that Svetloe can be used as an alternate for Wettzell should it be needed.

The Operations Center updated the version of sked as updates were available.

All sessions are correlated at the Washington Correlator, which is located at USNO and is run by NEOS.

Table 1. Experiments Scheduled during 2009

52	IVS-R4 experiments
217	Intensives (Kk–Wz)
20	Kk-Sv-Wz Intensives

2. Staff

K. A. Kingham and M. S. Carter are the only staff members of the NEOS Operation Center. Kingham is responsible for the overall management, and Carter makes the schedules. M. S. Carter is located at the USNO Flagstaff Station (NOFS).

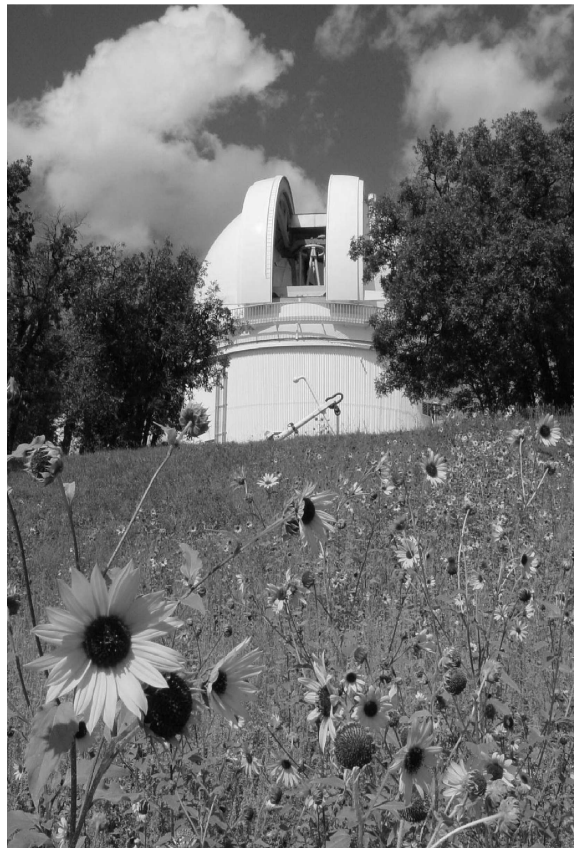


Figure 1. U.S. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station, location of half of the Operations Center