

Hohe Wand Declaration

From 21–22 September 2011 the IVS held a retreat in the Gutenstein Alps in Lower Austria, a good hour's drive southwest of Vienna. The venue was an *Alpengasthof* ('alpine guesthouse') within the Hohe Wand nature park. For the retreat, the IVS Directing Board was augmented by several invited guests: Johannes Böhm, Thomas Hobiger, Jim Lovell, and Arthur Niell (see Figure 1), resulting in an overall group strength of 18 participants.



Figure 1. Participants of the IVS retreat at Hohe Wand, Austria.

The focus of the retreat was placed on a review and update of the IVS Terms of Reference (ToR). Periodic reviews of the IVS organization and its mandate, functions, and components are actually a requirement according to the ToR. The retreat participants went through the existing ToR sentence by sentence and discussed the continued validity of the contents. When needed, the ToR were rephrased or the formulations were simplified. In addition, a few minor additions and deletions were done. None of the changes were critical or controversial in nature. The additions were mostly with respect to the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS); perhaps the only major update was the addition of a second Analysis Center representative on the Board. The revised ToR were approved by the Board in the subsequent Board meeting and then officially ratified by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) in December. The revised ToR can be found in the IVS information section of this volume.

A second major discussion block dealt with focus areas for future IVS work and activities. The participants felt that emphasis should be put on improving quality control, internal and external outreach, VLBI2010 infrastructure, real-time observation and product creation (including automation), and expanding research and research fields. The results of the discussion were compiled into a declaration that was subsequently approved by the Board. Please peruse the reproduction of the declaration below.

**Declaration of the Participants of the IVS Retreat at
Hohe Wand, Austria from 21–22 September 2011**

We, the eighteen participants of the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) Retreat at Hohe Wand, Austria, met on 21–22 September 2011 to review the IVS organization and its mandate, functions, and components, as well as to define focus areas for future IVS work and activities. We

recognize

- that the global framework for geodetic activities has evolved since the inception of the service through the establishment of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS);
- that the IVS data and products are also GGOS data and products;
- that the increased requirements, as mandated by GGOS, for position accuracy of 1 mm and velocity accuracy of 0.1 mm/year by the year 2020 can only be achieved by the next-generation VLBI system (VLBI2010); and
- that the IVS organization, mandate, functions, and components as outlined in the IVS Terms of Reference (ToR) continue to fulfill the requirements of the global geodetic/astrometric VLBI science and the associated user communities;

recommend

- that the development of the next generation VLBI system be vigorously advanced, and that the corresponding VLBI2010 infrastructure be established on a global basis;
- that the quality control of VLBI data and products be improved;
- that internal and external outreach activities be enhanced;
- that real-time observation and product creation (including automation) be advanced to an operational state; and
- that both research activities and research fields-of-interest be expanded.

*Hohe Wand, Austria
22 September 2011*