

Coordinating Center Activities at GFSC

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Introduction

The IVS Coordinating Center (CC) is responsible for coordination of both the day-to-day and the long-term activities of the service, consistent with the directives and policies established by the Directing Board. Specifically, the CC monitors, coordinates, and supports the activities of the Network Stations, Operation Centers, Correlators, Data Centers, Analysis Centers, and Technology Development Centers. The Coordinating Center works closely with the Technology Coordinator, the Network Coordinator, and the Analysis Coordinator to coordinate all IVS activities.

The CC coordinates the observing programs (creating and maintaining the master observing schedules), fosters communications among the IVS components, organizes workshops and meetings, produces and publishes reports, and provides a liaison with other organizations. In this poster we summarize the various aspects of the coordination work done at GSFC and highlight some of the changes that have occurred over the last four years.

Creating and Maintaining the Master Observing Schedules

The CC creates and maintains the annual observing plans in collaboration with the Observing Program Committee (OPC), in coordination with the IVS Network Stations and Correlators as well as astronomical observing programs:

- Establish for each calendar year 6–2 months prior to the start of the year;
- Update the plan as needed during the observing year;
- Define the networks and #sessions (~200 24-hour sessions; ~400 1-hour sessions);
- Define best use of community resources;
- Maintain web version of master schedules as access hub for data and ancillary files.

Name	Code	Start	DOY	Dur	Stations	DB Code	Ops Center	Correlator	Status	Analysis
IVS-R41039	R41039	2022-02-24 18:30	55	24:00	Ht Is Kk Ma Ns Ny Sa Wn Ww Wz Yg	XE	USNO	WASH	Processing session	USNO
IVS-R11040	R11040	2022-02-28 17:00	59	24:00	Is Kk Ma Ns Ny Sa Wn Ww Wz Yg Ho	XA	NASA	BONN	Ready for processing	NASA
March										
VGOS-02062	V02062	2022-03-03 18:00	62	24:00	Gs K2 Mg Qe Wf Ws Yj Qw	VG	HAYS	BONN	Waiting on media	NASA
IVS-R41040	R41040	2022-03-03 18:30	62	24:00	Is Kk Ma Ns Ny Sa Wn Ww Wz Yg Wz	XE	USNO	WASH	Waiting on media	USNO
IVS-R11041	R11041	2022-03-07 17:00	66	24:00	Ag Ht Is Kk Kv Ma Ns Ny Sa Wn Ww Wz Yg Ho	XA	NASA	BONN	Waiting on media	NASA
IVS-OHG136	OHG136	2022-03-08 17:30	67	24:00	Ag Ht Kk Kv Oh Sy Ww Yg Ho	XA	DACH	BONN		BKG
AUS-MIX047	AUMB47	2022-03-09 18:00	68	24:00	Hb Ht Yg	XA	UTAS	UTAS		UTAS
VGOS-02069	V02069	2022-03-10 18:00	69	24:00	Gs K2 Mg Qe Wf Ws Yj	VG	HAYS	VIEN		NASA
IVS-R41041	R41041	2022-03-10 18:30	69	24:00	Ht Is Kk Ma Ns Ny Sa Wn Ww Wz Yg	XE	USNO	WASH		USNO
IVS-R11042	R11042	2022-03-14 17:00	73	24:00	Ag Ht Kk Kv Ma Ns Ny Sa Wn Ww Wz Yg Ho	XA	NASA	BONN		NASA
AUS-AST086	AJAB86	2022-03-15 17:30	74	24:00	Hb Ht Ww Yg Ho Ks	XA	DACH	UTAS		NASA

In the past four years the web version was overhauled to improve readability and because of changed requirements on accessing files at GSFC and CDDIS (above: excerpt from 2022 master schedule; below: example of a specific session in 2021).

Scheduling	Operations Center	Data Acquisition	Correlator	Analysis
Operations notes • SKED Schedule File No VEX files available.	HAYS Status: Completed	Stations: Gs Qe Wf Ws K2 Mg Wf Yj Status: Completed Observation summary • GG0212M (Gs) ◦ Field System log ◦ Field System full log • K0K0E12M (K2) ◦ Field System log ◦ Field System full log • MG ◦ Field System log ◦ Field System full log • ONSA13NE (Ow) ◦ Field System log • ONSA13SW (Ow) ◦ Field System log	Correlator: SHAO Status: Released on 2022-01-24 Correlator report vgosDB: 21OCT14VG.tgz	Analysis Center: NASA Status: Completed IVS reports: • Analysis report (2022-01-24 16:00) • Analysis spool file (2022-01-24 16:00) Reports from additional Analysis Centers: BKG: ◦ Analysis report (2022-01-24 15:28) ◦ Analysis spool file (2022-01-24 15:28)

Fostering Communications among IVS Components

The CC provides the Secretariat of the IVS Directing Board and functions as a liaison with other organizations such as IERS, IAG, IAU, GGOS, and WDS. We organize monthly meetings of various IVS components or participate in corresponding IVS entities.

Monthly meetings:

- *Observing Program Committee (OPC)*: every third Thursday of the month (chair)
- *VGOS Operations and Resources (VOR)*: every second Thursday of the month (chair)
- *Correlator group*: every fourth Tuesday of the month (chair)
- *IVS Media*: every first Wednesday of the month (chair)
- *VGOS Technical Committee (VTC)*: every fourth Thursday of the month (ex officio)

Irregular meetings:

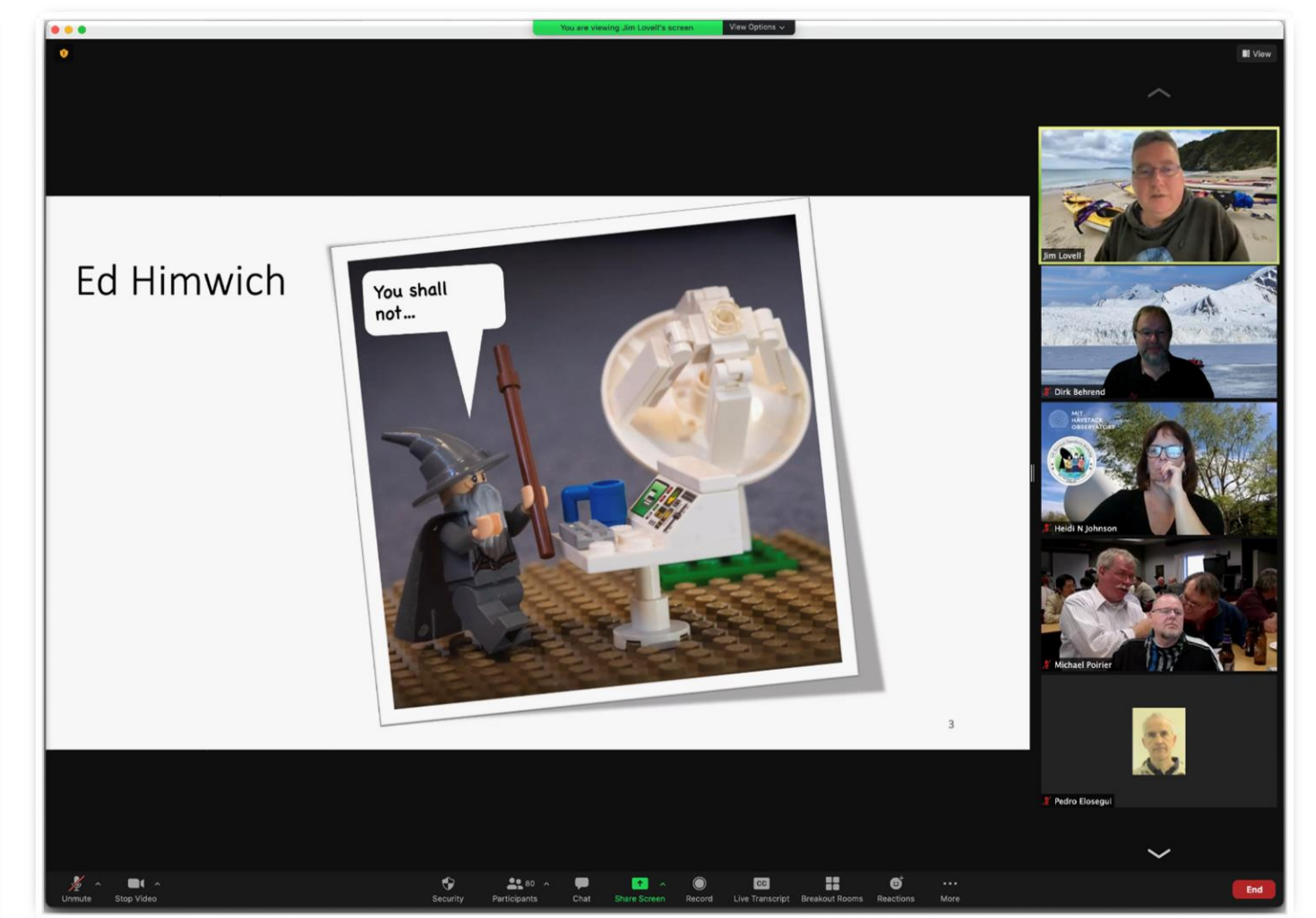
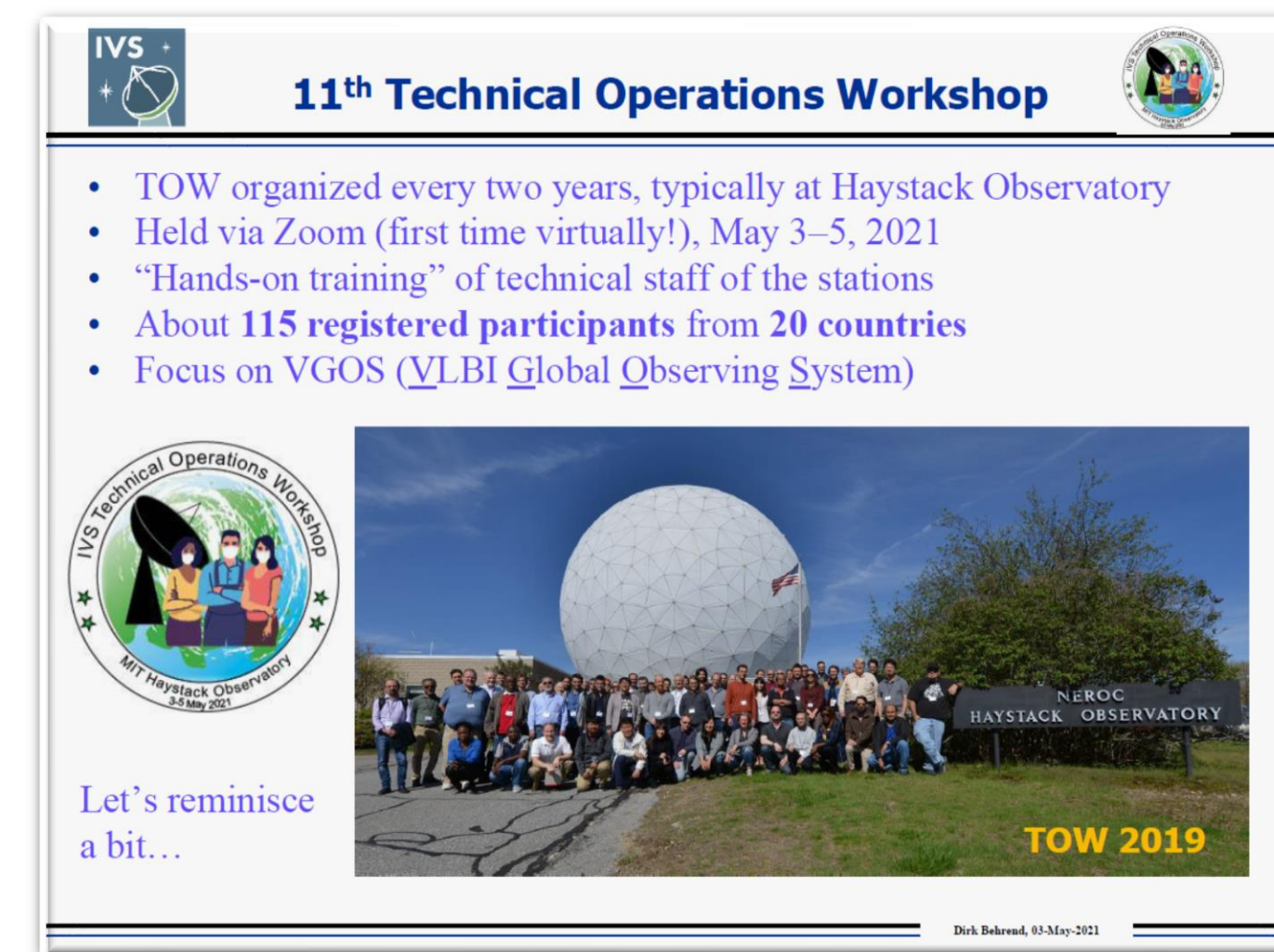
- *Data Centers group*: currently anywhere between every three to five weeks
- *Committee on Education and Training (CTE)*: as needed (ex officio)

During the pandemic, the IVS Directing Board moved from two one-day, in-person meetings per year to four shorter (2–3 hours), virtual Zoom meetings. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the IVS website a few weeks after the event.

Organization of Workshops and Meetings

The CC organizes and supports meetings and workshops. Its duties are to:

- Organize an IVS General Meeting (GM) every two years;
- Organize a Technical Operations Workshop (TOW) every two years (interlaced with GM);
- Support the organization of a VLBI Training School;
- Organize IVS Directing Board meetings.

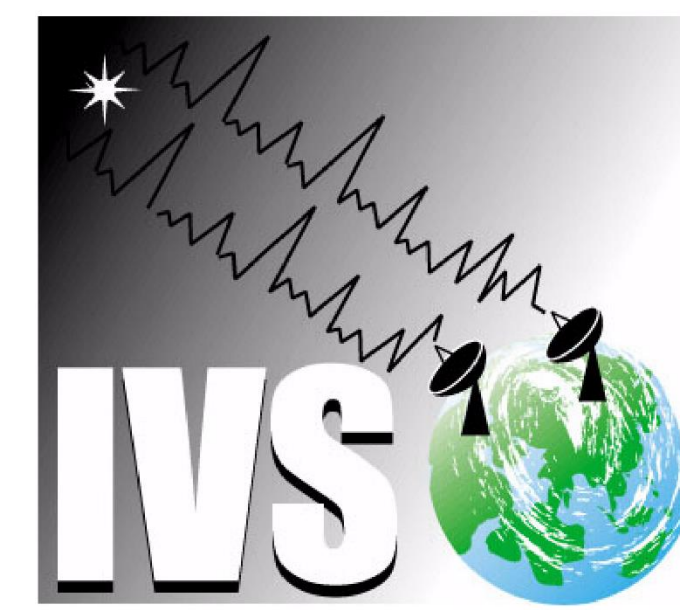


All IVS meetings over the past two years, including this GM, were held virtually.

Publication of Reports and Maintaining Information Tools

At the end of 2019, the IVS retired its old logo and introduced a new logo to begin 2020. The old logo served us well for the first twenty years of the service's existence. However, it was time to make a change. The IVS Office for Outreach and Communications (IVS-OOC) worked with the CC on the design. The new logo is usable in grayscale, visible at small sizes, editable for possible customizations, reproducible in any file format needed, and clear against both light and dark backgrounds. Thanks to Nancy Kotary for the great work!

Old logo:



New logo:



The CC is responsible for maintaining various information tools including the publication of reports. The individual items encompass:

- Publish an IVS Newsletter issue thrice a year;
- Publish an IVS Biennial Report every two years;
- Publish General Meeting Proceedings every two years;
- Maintain the IVS website;
- Maintain the IVS mailing lists.

After 60 editions sporting the same layout, the editor team of the IVS Newsletter decided to modernize the design. As of Issue #61 (December 2021), the IVS Newsletter has a new look that was designed to modernize and simplify its appearance, to match (the color scheme of) the new logo, and to be easy to read.

Old design:



New design:



The CC maintains the IVS mailing lists which are part of the NASA-wide Agency Mailing List Service. In May 2021, we monitored that the migration to a new host organization within NASA and the upgrade to a new list manager went smoothly for all IVS lists. All membership information and list options of the about 30 exploder lists were rolled over successfully. At its new home the list administration has reduced access capabilities. Now all subscription requests are handled via email either directly to the list or to the list manager. The general public cannot access the web interface (including list archives) anymore.

Resources

Relevant web links:

- IVS website: <https://ivsc.gsfc.nasa.gov/> (mirror) <https://ivsc.bkg.bund.de/>
- Session web pages: <https://ivsc.gsfc.nasa.gov/sessions/>
- Mailing lists: <https://ivsc.gsfc.nasa.gov/mail/>
- Outreach website: <https://vlbi.org/>