

NEOS Operation Center

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Abstract

This report covers the activities of the NEOS Operation Center at USNO for 2012. The Operation Center schedules the IVS-R4 and the INT1 Intensive experiments.

1. VLBI Operations

NEOS operations in the period covered 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 2012, the operational IVS-R4 network included VLBI stations at Kokee Park (Hawaii), Wettzell (Germany), Ny-Ålesund (Norway), TIGO (Chile), Fortaleza (Brazil), Tsukuba (Japan), Svetloe, Badary and Zelenchuk-skaya (Russia), Hobart, Katherine and Yarragadee (Australia), Yebes (Spain), and Matera and Medicina (Italy). A typical R4 consisted of eight to twelve stations.

The regular stations for the weekday IVS Intensives were Kokee Park and Wettzell. Intensives including Kokee Park, Wettzell, and Svetloe were occasionally scheduled in order to characterize the Kokee Park — Svetloe baseline so that Svetloe can be used as an alternate for Wettzell should it be needed. Odd-day Intensives were scheduled with the scheduling technique used since 2000; even-day Intensives were scheduled with a new, experimental scheduling technique.

The Operation Center updated its version of SKED as updates became available.

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

Table 1. Experiments Scheduled during 2012.

Number	Session Type
52	IVS-R4 experiments
230	Intensives

2. Staff

K. A. Kingham, D. M. Hall, and M. S. Carter are the only staff members of the NEOS Operation Center. Dr. Kerry Kingham retired at the beginning of June, and Mr. Hall assumed his duties. Hall is responsible for the overall management, and Carter makes the schedules. M. S. Carter is located at the USNO Flagstaff Station (NOFS).