



**First Announcement**

# **SLR Tracking of GNSS Constellations**

**50 Years of Satellite Geodesy and Geodynamics**

**On the Occasion of Prof. George Veis 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Scientific Organizing Committee:**

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Dear Colleagues,

We have the pleasure to announce that the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS) in collaboration with the National Technical University of Athens, Greece (NTUA) is organizing an ILRS Technical Workshop entitled:

## **SLR Tracking of GNSS Constellations 50 Years of Satellite Geodesy and Geodynamics**

in Metsovo, Greece, from September 14 to 19, 2009, on the occasion of Prof. George Veis 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his doctoral thesis, a document that laid the foundations of satellite geodesy. Details will be soon available at the workshop web page.

### **Objectives**

- Overview of the two techniques with emphasis on their synergism
- Review of GNSS and SLR constellations & networks and current state of the art
- Satellite geodesy applied in geodynamics, POD, positioning, gravity, etc.
- Survey of the likely gains in science from SLR tracking of GNSS constellations
- Examine approaches to help accomplish the goals set by GGOS, investigating options such as:
  - o higher repetition rates,
  - o optimal normal point formulation,
  - o interleaving tracking of targets, better sampling of orbits,
  - o allocating targets to sub-networks, etc.
- Optimization of the network design and deployment of the appropriate space segment
- Discussion of the fundamental differences, geometric and dynamic, between geodetic cannonball type targets (LAGEOS) and the complicated GNSS spacecraft
- Discussion of applications specifically enabled through the synergism of the two techniques, e.g. the likely improvement of LEO POD with the improved GNSS orbital products and their impact on Earth Observation products relying on these orbits (radar and laser altimetry, geopotential missions, atmospheric lidar and sounding missions, topography missions, SAR and InSAR missions, etc.).

We would like to invite you to participate in the workshop and submit presentations to the sessions of your choice.

### **Venue**

The workshop will take place near Ioannina, in northern Greece, at the **Metsovon Conference Center – "Diasselo" (MCC)** and the **Metsovon Interdisciplinary Research Center (MIRC)** of the **National Technical University of Athens, Greece (NTUA)**. The venue is a very pleasant historical town and ski-resort with outstanding natural beauty surrounding it. Its location will provide a peaceful environment for our deliberations, which we hope to be extended beyond the sessions and during short walks in the surrounding woods and slopes.

## **Abstract Submission**

Information on the format and submission procedure will be available on the Workshop web pages. Abstracts, presentations, posters and subsequently submitted papers will be published electronically online and on a CD-ROM for the participants. Deadline for abstract submission is July 31, 2009. Abstract formatting guidelines will be available on the Workshop web pages.

## **Registration**

Registration will be done through the Workshop web site and you will have the options of registering online, with a FAX to the local organizing office, or onsite (to be avoided if possible). The deadline for early registration will be July 31, 2009, since Greece is a popular summer destination and planning ahead and early is highly recommended.

## **Accommodation and Travel**

Metsovo can be easily reached by car and/or by plane via Athens, Ioannina or Thessaloniki, and by ferryboat and car via Igoumenitsa. Detailed information about travel options and accommodations in the several hotels and B&B of the area will be available through the web page of the workshop and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular.

## **Social Program**

An icebreaker and a workshop dinner are planned. Additionally, the Workshop web pages will provide ample information, links and suggestions on short and extended trips in the surrounding area, including visits to archeological sites, world-famous caves, nature parks, resorts, etc.

We look forward to seeing you all in Metsovo!

Erricos C. Pavlis and Demitris Paradissis