



20th International Workshop on Laser Ranging

“The Path toward the Next Generation Laser Ranging Network”

Science Campus “Albert Einstein”



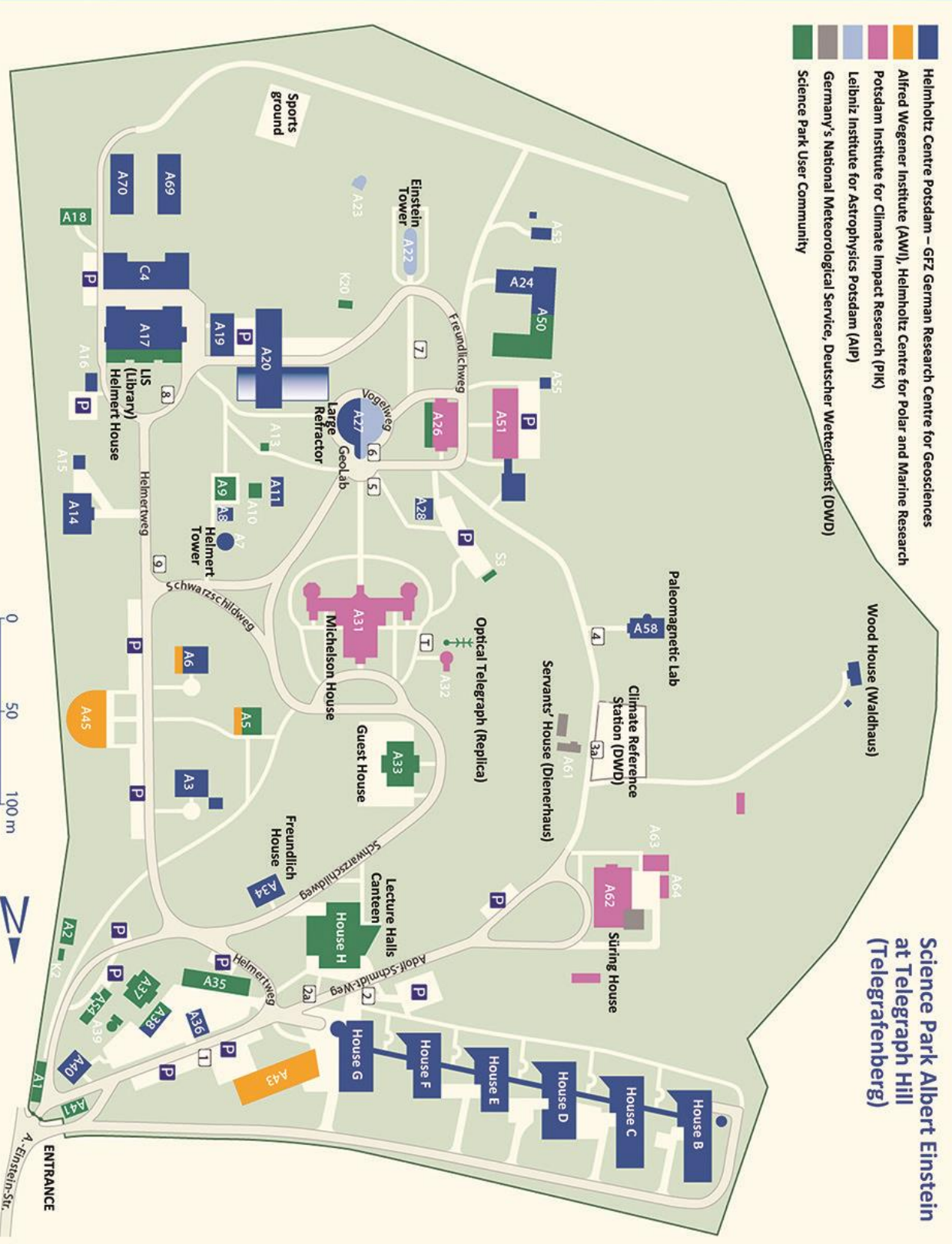
(Drone photo: M. Ludwig/GFZ)

Potsdam, Germany

10 – 14 October 2016

Science Park Albert Einstein at Telegraph Hill (Telegrafenberg)

- Helmholtz Centre Potsdam – GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences
- Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP)
- Germany's National Meteorological Service, Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD)
- Science Park User Community



Dear Workshop Participant,

Welcome to Potsdam! The 20th International Workshop on Laser Ranging 2016 is organized by the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences. The venue is located within the Science Campus “Albert Einstein” on top of the Telegrafenberg (“Telegraph Hill”), a place famous for both historic and modern science.

Shaped during the last glacial period about 20 000 years ago, the Weichselian glacial time, it was an unnamed hill until the year 1832. After the Vienna Congress in 1815, when Prussia earned large new territories outside its homeland, it became part of the Royal Prussian Optical Telegraph Line between Berlin and Coblenz via Magdeburg and Cologne. Telegraph station #4 was sitting on top of this hill, transmitting secret state “telegrams” between 1832 and 1849. (A replica of this telegraph machine is on display.)

An ensemble of state-of-the-art science institutes was erected here in classicistic style between 1876 and 1895: the Astrophysical Institute, the Geomagnetic/Meteorological and the Geodetic Institute. Several “firsts” in science occurred on Telegrafenberg in the following years:

- The first realization of the famous Michelson interferometric experiment to detect the “luminiferous ether” in 1881 in the cellar under the eastern dome of the Astrophysical Institute
- The first tele-seismic detection of an earthquake in Japan (1889 by Rebeur-Paschwitz)
- The discovery of interstellar medium (1904 by Hartmann, performing spectroscopy of the binary star Delta Orionis)
- The highly precise determination of the absolute value of gravity by pendulum experiments (1898-1904 by Kühnen and Furtwängler); international reference value 1909/1971.

Especially the Geodetic Institute with its famous directors J. J. Baeyer and F. R. Helmert can be considered the “cradle of modern geodesy”.

Starting in 1920, the famous solar observatory “Einstein Tower” with its remarkable expressionistic architecture was added to the ensemble of scientific buildings. It was dedicated to the search for the effect of gravitational redshift which was predicted by Einstein’s general theory of relativity.

Today the renowned institutions like the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar Research with together far more than 1000 employees continue the great tradition of science in Potsdam, using modern equipment like satellites, world-wide sensor networks or research vessels and aircraft.

We hope that you find some time to walk around on Telegrafenberg to enjoy the beautiful campus landscape and buildings.

We wish you a pleasant stay and a successful workshop!

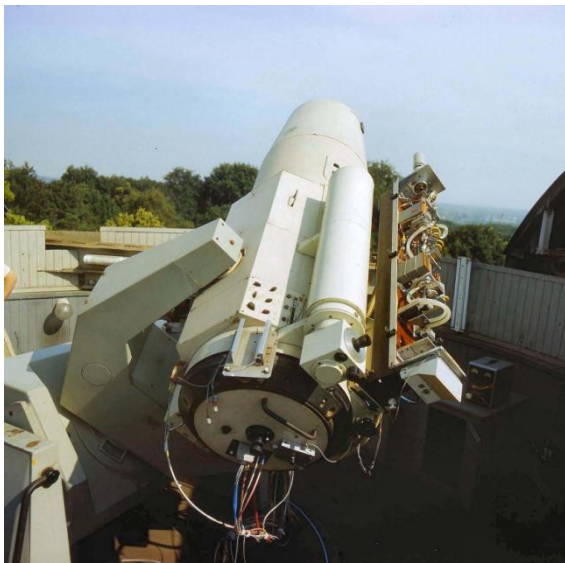
Program Committee of 20th International Workshop on Laser Ranging

History of Satellite Laser Ranging in Potsdam

Stations Potsdam-1 and Potsdam-2

Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) has been performed in Potsdam since 1974. The first SLR system was based on the modified satellite tracking camera SBG from Carl Zeiss Jena, located on the Helmert Tower. A Q-switched ruby laser with 20 ns pulse duration was set on top of the telescope and moved together with the SBG. The receiving electronics had to be located behind the main mirror. Ranging accuracies in the order of 12 meters for the first generation were typical for the period of 1974-1981. Several modifications included the PC control of the mount in 1979 which enabled ranging without visual control, especially for satellite passes within the Earth shadow. The system was capable of tracking all satellites equipped with laser retro reflectors up to the 6000 km high orbit of Lageos.

The 20 ns ruby laser was replaced in 1981 by a model with 5 ns pulse width. Together with improved ranging electronics, this transformed Potsdam-1 (station designator 1181 Potsdam) into a 2nd generation SLR which was operated until 1993. Better laser beam quality and more sensitive electronic receivers extended the ranging capability until the 19 000 km orbits of the Russian Etalon satellites in 1989. Further modifications towards 3rd generation performance were not considered because the 4-axis SBG telescope was not designed for a Coudé focus which allows the stationary use of mode-locked laser transmitters required for picoseconds pulses.



Stations Potsdam-1 (left) and Potsdam-2 (right)

(Photos: L. Grunwaldt/GFZ)

The upgrade of the Potsdam SLR towards the 3rd generation international standard was started in 1986 with the in-house development of the laser transmitter PLS-5 and high-speed ranging electronics capable of centimeter level accuracies. This system (ILRS station designator 7836 Potsdam-2) was finally integrated around the two-axis SLR telescope TPL designed by M. Abele from the University of Riga. This Coudé-telescope was purchased in 1990 and located near the Helmert Tower on a historical pillar which had been used for a photographic zenith telescope before. Potsdam-2 became operational in May 1992 and continued operation until June 2004. Special modifications in the receiving system in 1994/1995 allowed for the highly successful tracking of the first geodetic satellite of GFZ Potsdam, GFZ-1, which was the lowest SLR target at that time. The most important one was the insertion of a narrowband spectral filter which enabled continuous day- and nighttime operation. Potsdam-2 tracked

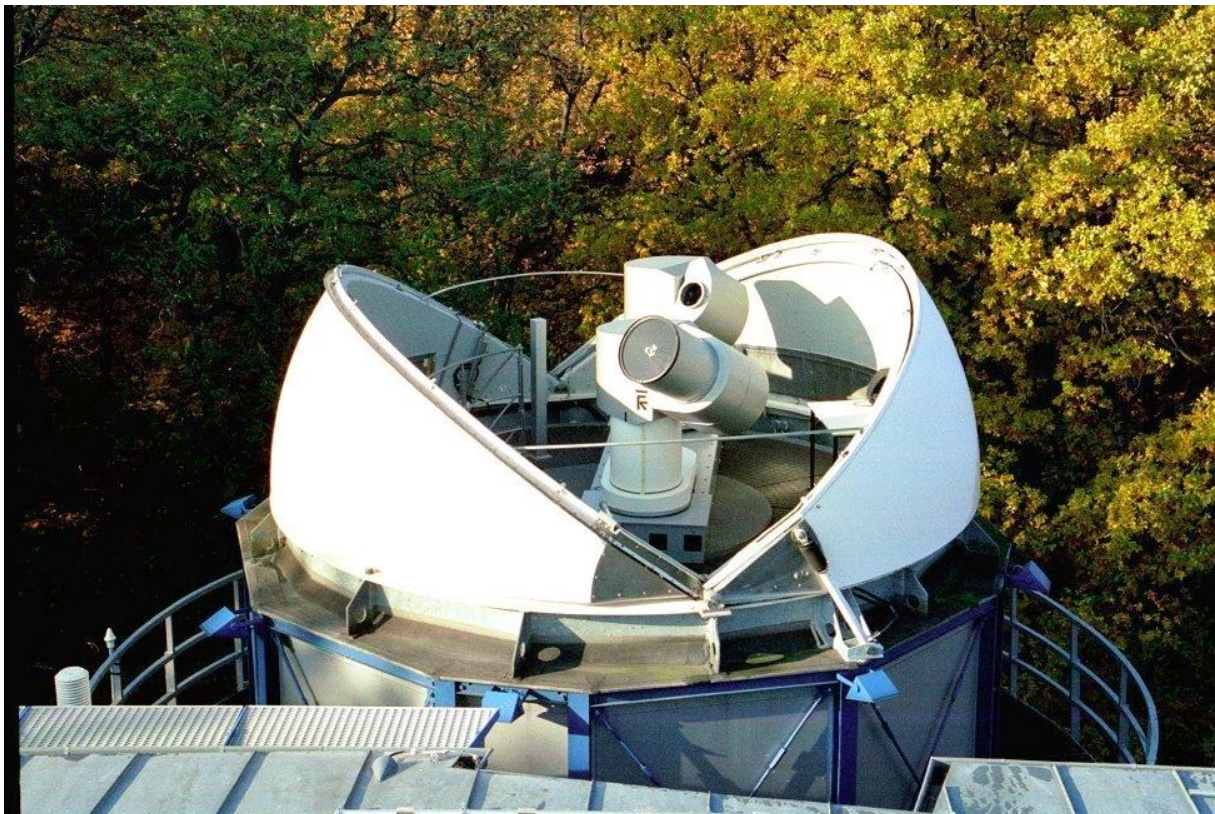
all SLR targets up the 20000 km high GPS-35 and -36 satellites and the Russian GLONASS system. A detailed description of this station is found at the ILRS websites.

Station Potsdam-3

The planned relocation of the Potsdam SLR station to the dedicated tower within the new GFZ facilities in 1996 opened the possibility of upgrading the system with special emphasis to a novel telescopic system and a state-of-the-art laser transmitter. This system 7841 Potsdam-3 has been operating with full capability since January 2003. The SLR station Potsdam-3 features a bi-static system which consists of separated telescopes for transmission of reception of the laser signal.

The main technical parameters of Potsdam-3 (as of 2016) are the following:

- Transmit telescope: 15 cm Coudé refractor on alt-azimuthal mount
- Receive telescope: 40 cm Coudé-Cassegrain on alt-azimuthal mount
- Laser type: Nd:YVO, frequency-doubled (532 nm)
- Output energy: 300-400 μ J/pulse, repetition rate 2000 Hz, pulse width 10 ps
- Detector: H 5320 photomultiplier or MPD-1CTC avalanche photodiode
- Time-of-flight registration: A032-ET Event Timer with 1 ps resolution
- Single-shot accuracy: <1 cm



Transmit- and receive telescopes of station Potsdam-3

(Photo: L. Grunwaldt/GFZ)

The station is highly automated. Both telescopes and the ranging electronics are controlled by PC. Only a single person is required for system supervision. Despite its small size with a receiving telescope diameter of only 40 cm, the SLR system Potsdam has a good productivity under both night and daylight ranging conditions (>3000 annual satellite passes) and displays both short-term and long-term stabilities in the few millimeters range according to the official ILRS analysis centre reports.

Tuesday, October 11	
08:00	Registration
09:00	Urs Hugentobler Technical University Munich Ranging the GNSS Constellation (Invited)
Session 3: Co-locations and other intra- and inter-technique calibrations <i>Chairs: J. Long, J. Eckl, U. Schreiber</i>	
09:30	Sten Bergstrand SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden The current state of ground surveys
09:45	Ulrich Schreiber Technical University Bad Koetzing Systematic Bias Elimination by Co-locations as well as by Intra- and Inter-Technique Closure Measurements
10:00	Jan Kodet Technical University Munich Multi-Technique Ground Target
10:15	Stephen Merkowitz NASA GSFC Greenbelt NASA's Next Generation Space Geodesy Co-located Sites
10:30	Scott Wetzel Honeywell Lanham SGSLR Site Preparation and Deployment Plans for the First Set of SGSLR Systems
10:45	Pawel Lejba Space Research Center Kornik New face of the Borowiec Satellite Laser Ranging Station
11:00	Coffee Break
Session 4: Current trends in lunar ranging <i>Chairs: L. Combrinck, J.-M. Torre, H. Noda</i>	
11:30	James Battat Wellesley College Timing Calibration of the APOLLO Experiment
11:45	Courde Clement Geoazur Caussols Lunar laser ranging In Infrared
12:00	B. Liu Chinese Academy Sciences Beijing Geopositioning and precision validation of landing locations on the Moon using LRO NAC images and LRRRs
12:15	Vladimir Suvorkin Institute Applied Astron. St. Petersburg Determining parameters of Moon's orbital and rotational motion from LLR observations using GRAIL and IERS-recommended models
12:30	Franz Hofmann Institut f. Erdmessung Hannover Update of the IfE LLR analysis model and new fit of relativistic parameters
12:45	Agnes Fienga CNRS Geoazur Valbonne New results for the INPOP lunar ephemerides : new modelings for the inner structure and IR LLR data
13:00	Yagudina E. Institute Applied Astron. St. Petersburg Parameters of new version of Lunar Ephemeris EPM2015 at the base of
13:15	Poster Session 2 Brief
13:20	Lunch
14:20	Clinic intro in main auditorium and move to 1st clinic station
14:30	Clinic session 1 of 6
14:55	Clinic session 2 of 6
15:20	Clinic session 3 of 6
15:45	Coffee Break

12:45	Horst Müller	DGFI-TUM Munich	Quality control and bias analysis at DGFI-TUM
12:55	Erricos C. Pavlis	Center Earth Syst.Tech. Baltimore	JCET Station Performance Assessment Tools for the ILRS Stations
13:00	Lunch		
14:00	Vincenza Luceri	e-GEOS S.p.A. Matera	Assessment of systematic error estimation
14:15	Franck Reinquin	CNES/GRGS Toulouse	Ranging error determination using geodetic satellites in support of altimeter mission precise orbit determination
14:30	Krzysztof Sosnica	Wroclaw University	SLR signature effect for Galileo with a focus on satellites launched into incorrect orbital planes
14:45	End of the session		
15:15	Bus transfer to boat trip		
16:00	Boat trip		

Thursday, October 13			
09:00	Christoph Förste	GFZ Potsdam	On the principles of satellite-based Gravity Field Determination with special focus on the Satellite Laser Ranging technique (Invited)
Session 7: Advances in laser ranging technology and new applications <i>Chairs: F. Koidl, Z. Zhongping, E. Hoffman</i>			
09:30	Ulrich Schreiber	Technical University Bad Koetzing	Optical metrology in space geodesy
09:50	H. Donovan	NASA SGSLR Lanham	The Gimbal and Telescope Assembly for NASA's Next Generation Space Geodesy SLR Systems
10:05	Evan Hoffman	NASA GSFC Greenbelt	SGSLR Range Control Electronics Design and Implementation
10:20	Honglin Fu	Yunnan Observatories	1064nm Laser Ranging Experiment using Superconducting nanowire single photon detector at Kunming SLR Station
10:35	Ivan Prochazka	Czech Technical University	Advances in laser ranging technology at CTU in Prague and new SLR applications
10:45	John Degnan	Sigma Space Corporation Lanham	The Impact of Single Photon SLR Technology on Large Scale Topo-Bathymetric Mapping
11:00	Coffee Break		
11:30	Johann Eckl	BKG Bad Koetzing	Recent achievements in mono-static, high repetition rate ranging at the WLRS
11:45	Peiyuan Wang	Austrian Academy of Sciences	Tracking up to geostationary satellites with 15uJ laser and 70cm standard astronomical telescope
12:00	Georg Kirchner	Austrian Academy of Sciences	Concept of a modular, multi-laser, multi-purpose SLR station
12:15	L. Porcelli	INFN-LNF Frascati	The Italian Ministry of Research's Project 'Laser Ranging to Galileo'

12:30	Andreas Boerner	InnoLas Laser GmbH Krailling	Monolithic high energy picosecond laser sources for laser ranging applications
12:45	Daniel Hampf	DLR Stuttgart	Satellite Laser Ranging with a fibre-based transmitter
13:00	Yue Gao	EOS and SERC Canberra	Advanced Solid State Lasers for Space Tracking
13:15	Poster Session 3 - Brief		
13:20	Lunch		

Session 8: Advances in retroreflector arrays and their modeling

Chairs: L. Grunwaldt, A. Sokolov, S. Wetzel

14:15	John J. Degnan	Sigma Space Corporation Lanham	Reducing the satellite contribution to range error
14:30	David Arnold	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	LAGEOS-2 and Circular Polarization
14:45	A.L. Sokolov	JSC Res. Prod. Moscow	Preliminary results of the laser ranging space experiment of spacecraft «Lomonosov»
15:00	Ludwig Grunwaldt	GFZ Potsdam	Optical Tests of a Large Number of Small COTS Cubes
15:15	Douglas Currie	University Maryland	Current Status of Next Generation Retroreflector for Lunar Laser Ranging
15:30	Hsien-Chi Yeh	School Physics Astron. Guangzhou	Large corner-cube retroreflector and laser ranging for Chang'e-4 relay satellite
15:45	B. Greene	SERC and EOS Weston Creek	On-Orbit Calibration of Laser Beam Intensity
16:00	Coffee Break		

Session 9: Interplanetary ranging and time transfer

Chairs: J. Degnan, P. Exertier, A. Schlicht

16:30	U. Schreiber	Tech. University Bad Koetzing	Testing Fundamental Physics with Clocks in Space: The ACES Mission
16:45	Schlicht, A.	Technical University Munich	Status of the ELT data center
17:00	Wendong Meng	Shanghai Astron. Observatory	The Project and plan of ground-satellite Laser Time Transfer in China
17:15	Simone Dell'Agnello	INFN-LNF Frascati	The Moon and Mars as Laser-ranged Test Bodies for General Relativity
17:30	Hiroto Noda	National Astron. Observatory Mitaka	Laser link experiment between Hayabusa2 laser altimeter and SLR stations
17:45	David E Smith	Massachusetts Institute Technology	Can Planetary SLR Measure the Expansion of the Solar System?
18:00	Poster Session - ILRS station posters (22)		
18:00	Transponder Comm. Mtg.		
19:30	End of the day		

Posters

Monday, October 10

Addendum posters to the oral sessions

Julie Horvath	NASA Lanham	SGSLR automation and the Computer and Software subsystem design
Igor Ignatenko	VNIIFTRI Moscow	Laser ranging of intricate objects
Mykhaylo Medvedskyy	Main Astron. Observatory Kiev	Lidar system on Kiev SLR 1824
Arttu Raja-Halli	Finnish Geospatial Research Institute	An improved toolset for aircraft safety and sky condition monitoring at Metsähovi SLR-station
T. Schildknecht	Astronomical Institute Bern	Applications of SLR data to the attitude determination of defunct satellites
W. Tian	Sun Yat-sen University Zhuhai	Development of software for Lunar Laser Ranging data analysis at TianQin Research Center for Gravitational Physics
Thomas Varghese	Cybioms Corporation Rockville	Plans and activities within the NASA SLR Operational Network towards meeting ILRS data requirements
Zhang Zhongping	Shanghai Astron. Observatory	Progress of Laser Measurement to Space Debris at Shanghai SLR Station

General topics in laser ranging

E.Boole	Inst. Electr. Comp. Science Riga	Riga Event Timers in compact implementations
Igors Buraks	Inst. Elec. Comp. Science Riga	Extension of the A033-ET family
Jorge del Pino	Institute of Astronomy Riga	SLR Station 1884, Riga, Upgrading the Station Calibration Procedures
Yun He	Huazhong Univ. Science Techn.	A 170 mm hollow corner cube retro-reflector on Chang'e 4 lunar relay satellite
Sung Ki Pyoung	Korea Astron. Space Science Inst.	Development of High Repetition-rate Laser Ranging System
Andreas Leidig	BKG Bad Koetzing	Advanced visual Object Recognition for In-Sky-Laser Safety
Andrea Maier	University Berne	GNSS orbit validation activities at the Astronomical Institute in Bern
Koji Matsuo	Geospatial Inf. Authority Tsukuba	Interannual geocenter motion with relation to El Nino Southern Oscillation
Cilence Munghemezulu	HartRAO Pretoria	Timing system for the lunar laser ranging station at HartRAO, South Africa: preliminary results
Carey Noll	NASA GSFC Greenbelt	CDDIS Data Center: An Update
Xiaoyu Pi	Yunnan Observatorie Kunming	Application of GT668 event timer in Satellite Laser Ranging

Kalvis Salmins	Institute of Astronomy Riga	Estimation of Electronics Component Contribution in the Overall Measurement Error at SLR Station Riga
C. Schwatke	DGFI-TUM Munich	EUROLAS Data Center (EDC) - Recent developments of the EDC
C. Schwatke	DGFI-TUM Munich	EUROLAS Data Center (EDC) - Status report 2014 - 2016
A.Treijs	HEE Photonic Labs Ltd. Riga	Enhanced satellite laser ranging project
Philemon Tsele	University of Pretoria	Prototyping a thermal monitoring system for the one-metre aperture Lunar Laser Ranger tube assembly based at the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory
Thomas Varghese	Cybioms Corporation Rockville	Upgraded Servo-control system for Matera 1.5 meter telescope
V. Vedin	Inst. Electronics Comp. Sc. Riga	Multi-purpose True Event Timer Module
Matthew Wilkinson	Space Geodesy Facility Hailsham	SGF, Herstmonceux in-sky safety system testing using ADS-B
Matthew Wilkinson	Space Geodesy Facility Hailsham	A new laser ranging calibration target suited for accurate surveying at the SGF, Herstmonceux
Matthew Wilkinson	Space Geodesy Facility Hailsham	The NESC Forum: online and open to the ILRS community
Haifeng Zhang	Shanghai Astron. Observatory	The Current Status and Future Development of Automatic Control of Laser Ranging System at Shanghai Stations

Tuesday, October 11

ILRS mission posters

Pacôme Delva	Observatoire de Paris	The ILRS campaign for the GREAT experiment
J. Fernández	GMV Tres Cantos	THE COPERNICUS SENTINEL-3 MISSION
Koenig, R.	GFZ Potsdam	The ILRS contributions to the GRACE mission and its success
Koenig, R.	GFZ Potsdam	The ILRS contributions to the TerraSAR-X/TanDEM-X mission and its success
F.G. Lemoine	NASA GSFC Greenbelt	The status of the Jason 2 & 3 missions with respect to POD and the contributions of SLR.
Stefan Marz	Technical University Munich	Relativistic corrections in the European Laser Timing (ELT) experiment
Jan McGarry	NASA GSFC Greenbelt	The Contributions of ILRS Laser Ranging to the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Mission
Shinichi Nakamura	JAXA Ibaraki	Ajisai celebrates 30 years in space
Toshimichi Otsubo	Hitotsubashi University Tokyo	Time series of SpinSat return intensity: How long can BK7 reflectors survive in space?
Thomas Varghese	Cybioms Corporation Rockville	Enabling precise geo-spatial calibration of the GLM sensor on board the GOES-R satellite using ground-based Laser beacons from NASA Moblas 4 and 7

Thursday, October 13

ILRS station posters

Giuseppe Bianco Agenzia Spaziale Italiana
Recoating the MLRO 1.5 m primary mirror

Gøril M. Breivik Norwegian Mapping Authority
New state-of-the-art observatory in Ny-Ålesund, Spitsbergen, Norway

Man-Soo Choi Korea Astron. Space Science Inst.
Current Status and Plan of the First Korean Satellite Laser Ranging System(ARGO-M)

Man-Soo Choi Korea Astron. Space Science Inst.
Technical Aspects and Progress of Korean 1m Satellite Laser Ranging System

Johann Eckl BKG Bad Koetzing
The current status of SLR-System automation at the Geodetic Observatory Wettzell

Guenther Herold BKG Bad Koetzing
Wettzell SLR: The first year of operating 2 SLR systems in one place

Makram Ibrahim Inst. Astronomy Geophys. Cairo
The effect of the weather on the Helwan SLR-station

Makram Ibrahim Inst. Astronomy Geophys. Cairo
The laser ranging of the satellites from Helwan-SLR station during 2005

Igor Ignatenko VNIIFTRI Moscow
Station Irkutsk part Time Service of Russia

Igor Ignatenko VNIIFTRI Moscow
Station Mendeleev part Time Service of Russia

Neung-Hyun Ka Korea Astron. Space Science Inst.
A-RGG development for 10 kHz Laser Ranging of Sejong station

Elango Kattimuthu Indian Space Research Org.
Reviving Laser Ranging to Satellites Station at Kavalur, India

José Antonio López Fernández Yebes Observatory
Yebes Observatory: Future Core Site and Laser Ranging Station Status

Jyri Näränen Finnish Geospatial Research Inst.
Current status of the new Metsähovi kHz SLR system

Eunseo Park Korea Astron. Space Science Inst.
Preliminary Performance Analysis for the Korean SLR station "SEJONG (SEJL)-73942601"

S. Martynov Precision Systems Instr. Moscow
Current status of the Russian SLR network and plans for the future

K. Salmis Institute of Astronomy Riga
SLR Station Riga Status Report

Rob Sherwood SGF Herstmonceux Hailsham
Herstmonceux Station current status and future plans

Reed Smith U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
Recent Upgrades at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory's Optical Test Facility

Thomas Varghese Cybioms Corporation Rockville
Deployment of millimeter SLR systems in India with automation features

Zhang Jie Inst. Geodesy Geophysics Wuhan
New SLR System with 1m Aperture Telescope in Wuhan Jiufeng Station

Zhang Zhongping Shanghai Astron. Observatory
The Current Status of Chinese Satellites Observation in ILRS List of Tracking Mission and Future Development

