Laurent Soudarin
Director of Central Bureau
CLS
8-10 rue Hermès
31500 Ramonville Saint-Agne
France
Phone : +33 (0)5 61 39 48 49
Fax : +33 (0)5 61 39 48 06
E-mail : Laurent.Soudarin@cls.fr

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Professor Steven Nerem
Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research
Dept of Aerospace Engineering Sciences, 431UCB
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309, USA

IDS support to GRASP proposal

Dear Professor Nerem,

On behalf of the IDS Governing Board, I would like to confirm that the International DORIS Service fully supports your initiative to launch a multi-technique mission such as GRASP.

First of all, it would be for all a unique opportunity to solve current open scientific problems with key societal impact: support to satellite altimetry mission and calibration of possible biases in the terrestrial reference frame and derived mean sea level. It would also be an efficient way to address possible inter-technique limitations or systematic errors and solve the problem of terrestrial geodetic local tie which is now a key problem for precise positioning for geodetic ground stations as well as for precise orbit determination, in an efficient and enhanced way.

Furthermore, concerning the DORIS aspects, please be certain that all IDS constituents fully support your initiative. The launch of a new dedicated DORIS satellite at a different altitude and inclination would benefit all current IDS products from all groups and could help us better understand possible limitation in our data processing. It could also help us detect possible systematic errors as related to antenna phase center location and possible variation, satellite surface force modeling and so on.

Best regards,

Laurent Soudarin
Director of the IDS Central Bureau