

The DORIS Pilot Experiment

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DORIS is one of the four techniques contributing to the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS). The three other techniques have an International Service providing the scientific community with data and products to support and coordinate research. There is an increasing demand among the international scientific community for a similar service dedicated to DORIS.

The CSTG and IERS Directing Board meetings held in Birmingham in July 1999 in the framework of IUGG99 decided to initiate a DORIS Pilot Experiment with a view to establish an International DORIS Service. The primary objective of the future IDS, an international collaboration of organizations which operate or support DORIS components, will be to foster the DORIS technique as a joint service to support international geodetic, geophysical, and other research and operational activities. The IERS expects to recognize the future IDS as the operational entity in charge of providing it with DORIS products. The aim of the DORIS Pilot Experiment is to assess the need and feasibility of an International DORIS Service, attaching a particular care to its international character and the long-term involvement of contributing organizations.

A Call for Proposals was broadcasted in September 1999. Qualified organizations are encouraged to submit proposals for one or more of the following components of the future IDS:

- Data Centers
- Analysis Centers
- Central Bureau
- New temporary or permanent DORIS stations
- Additional satellites fitted out with a DORIS receiver

The Terms of Reference of the future IDS will be submitted to CSTG and IERS at the AGU Fall meeting held in San Francisco in December 1999. A DORIS Pilot Experiment Steering Committee meeting held in January 2000 will review the proposals and select the IDS components.

This paper recalls the objectives of the future IDS, points out its components and structure, and gives current information on the progress of the experience and the perspectives and evolutions of the DORIS system.