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Updating the IERS Conventions

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The consistency of the reference frames provided by the IERS and its different centers relies on the set of conventional models and procedures that are used to realize them. These conventional models and procedures are mostly the product of the IERS Conventions Center, provided jointly by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO). The IERS Conventions (2003) were finalized in October 2003 and made available in November 2003. At the same time, work has been initiated in order to prepare the future updates of the IERS Conventions. Some technical issues are already identified as possible changes and are discussed in this report. New tools have been developed to help in the process of updating the IERS Conventions. A new web site and a discussion forum have been installed at the BIPM and are described.