



## Monitoring the International Monitoring System

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The CTBTO PTS underwent an internal restructuring in 2006, in part because the International Monitoring System (IMS) is nearing completion. Therefore the emphasis of the organization and its state signatories is switching from network establishment and construction, to long-term operations and maintenance. The previous structure of the organization was divided along technologies (seismic, acoustic, and radionuclide), however in the interest of streamlining the operations, these barriers have been removed and the organization is now grouped into functional units. The Monitoring Facilities Operations unit is tasked with the administrative and technical duties of IMS operations. The administrative duties focus on management of Post-Certification Activities, sometimes outlined in contracts, and sometimes based on agreements with the states parties. The activities include review of reports on station operations, problems, configuration changes, monitoring of routine maintenance, station budgeting and contractual duties. The MFO is also responsible for technical issues, mainly, monitoring real time data acquisition at the IDC and the forwarding of IMS data. For this purpose, an operations centre was established in 2005, its functions are continually developed by the MFO. The operations centre provides problem identification and assessment of data outages, and then passes the information and the responsibility onto an MFO officer. The MFO officer will provide level one support and troubleshooting in order to correct the problem. Level one support is defined as support that can be given using a clear set of procedures. When the issue exceeds this definition, the problem is then escalated to the Maintenance Section. The MFO officers also have the duties of monitoring station health, such as channel availability and zero filled data. With the establishment of the MFO the PTS hopes to measurably improve on both data collection and the administrative issues.