

THE ROLE OF THE IERS IN THE ADJUSTMENT OF COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME

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The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) has been tasked by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to determine when an adjustment to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is required through the insertion of a leap second. The IERS does this by monitoring the difference between UTC and the angle of the variable Earth's rotation, UT1. Earth orientation parameters (EOPs) that describe the relationship between UT1 and UTC can be determined very accurately with low latency. The IERS has been producing EOP products operationally for more than twenty-five years and continues to diversify its products and delivery methods in order to meet the future needs of its users.