



Current situation of discussions for future redefinition of UTC

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The original discussions about a proposal to terminate the insertion of leap seconds into Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) began in the late 1990s. At the URSI General Assembly in 1999, a working group was formed under Commission J, and then in 2002, an URSI-wide Working Group was established. The results of the surveys conducted by the Working Group were submitted to the Radiocommunication Sector of International Union of Telecommunication Union (ITU-R) for the discussions about possible redefinition of UTC. In 2012, ITU-R decided to continue discussions with its member states and other international organizations including URSI until its next World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 [1]. To respond to this decision, Commission A discussed about the issue in its Business Meeting during the GASS2014 and a Resolution of the Business Meeting was made. The resolution was then submitted to the ITU-R and was used as an input document to their discussion. In 2015, ITU-R decided again to continue discussions until 2023 by cooperating with other relevant organizations including URSI [2, 3]. Considering these circumstances, it is quite important for URSI to respond to the request from ITU-R by preparing an official statement about the future of UTC. In this talk, the author will review the current situation of discussions for future redefinition of UTC and would like to discuss about the appropriate action from URSI to ITU-R.

References

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- [2] F. Arias, "One more second", *Nature Physics*, **12**, 1178, December 2016, p. 1178, doi: 10.1038/nphys3975
- [3] "Definition of time scale and dissemination of time signals via radiocommunication systems", RESOLUTION 655 (WRC-15), Final Acts, World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), November 2015, pp. 372-374, International Telecommunication Union