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Session 1: Summary of Issues and Actions

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Issues

- Less than half of the stations are meeting or coming close to the 3500-pass target;
- Less than half of the stations are meeting or coming close to the 600-pass level for the Reference Frame satellites;
- Less than half the stations are averaging more than a pass per day on the altimeter satellites;
- Some stations are falling behind in the technology;
- Static tracking priorities are not giving us the most effective balance of data among the satellite targets;
- Some of the new missions do not have robust prediction capability or radio tracking; we are confronted with the combination of very sparse (even non-existent) SLR data and poor predictions;
- A number of stations in the ILRS network are supporting other projects like space debris tracking; this support can provide additional funding and manpower but it may at some point impact core ILRS mission activities;
- We must meet very stringent accuracy and stability requirements which can only be achieved if we establish a proper core and co-location network with uniform geographical distribution and more uniform data quantity, quality, and continuity;
- The ILRS and SLR must deliver the origin and scale of the TRF, but at the same time, our tracking of the GNSS constellations must ensure they are calibrated, properly scaled, and centered at the TRF origin;
- We will have numerous additional targets, but we can achieve our goals with the adoption of the proper concept of operations;
- Above all, we should take advantage of all of our new and better targets to ensure the generation of the most accurate data for all of the above tasks.
- Stop showing nice plots including sites that have not delivered data in decades.

Actions

- We need to focus on how we can increase data yield; consider some focused campaigns;
- We need to develop proper metrics to evaluate station performance and give proper incentive to the stations;
- We should examine schemes for dynamic priorities based on time, location, and past data yield;
- Missions should have at least one back-up predictions center and sufficient advance planning and preparations for predictions;
- Stations should be facile with switching prediction centers when having tracking problems;
- The long-term SLR network projection should be updated regularly;
- The ILRS should solicit periodic feedback reports from supported missions to see how the we are doing and how we can be more responsive to user needs.