## INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC **ORGANIZATION**



## **ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE** INTERNATIONALE

IHB File No S3/1106

**CIRCULAR LETTER 40/2011** 14 July 2011

## POSSIBLE CHANGES TO UNIVERSAL CO-ORDINATED TIME (UTC)

Dear Hydrographer,

- The IHB wishes to bring to your attention information it has received regarding a debate within the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS) about a possible redefinition of Universal Coordinated Time (UTC). The text of the message received at the IHB is annexed to this Circular Letter.
- Given the timescale for input to the discussion, those Member States who wish to comment should do so directly to IERS.

On behalf of the Directing Committee Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS President

Annex A: Email from the IERS

## Text of message received from the IERS

From: central_bureau@iers.org [mailto:central_bureau@iers.org] Sent: 12 Jul 2011 07:55 To: messages@iers.org
Subject: IERS Message No. 192: Questionnaire to survey opinion concerning a redefinition of UTC
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IERS Message No. 192 July 12, 2011
Questionnaire to survey opinion concerning a redefinition of UTC
After years of discussions, a proposal to fundamentally redefine UTC will come to a conclusive vote in January 2012 at the ITU-R in Geneva. This proposal would halt the intercalary adjustments known as leap seconds that maintain UTC as a form of Universal Time.
If the proposal is approved, UTC would not keep pace with Earth rotation and the value of DUT1 would become unconstrained. Therefore UTC would no longer be directly useful for various technical applications which rely on it being less than 1 second from UT1. Such applications would require a separate access to UT1, such as through the publication of DUT1 by other means.
The objective of the survey is to find out the strength of opinion for maintaining or changing the present system.
Link to the questionnaire:
http://hpiers.obspm.fr/eop-pc/index.php?index=questionnaire
Your response is appreciated before 31 August 2011.
Daniel Gambis Earth Orientation Center of the IERS
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