Abstract

In late 2015 the ILRS developed a questionnaire that was distributed to all ILRS stations at that time. The purpose of the questionnaire was to assess the network’s future-plans, near- and long-term. The tracking-load for the ILRS network is expanding with a large influx of new GNSS satellites and new LEO satellites with special requirements. Although this is exciting, it comes with a challenge. In another ten years, we could have more than one hundred GNSS and GEO satellites, and this is also true of LEO satellites. GNSS tracking will be a major topic for the coming decades. The GNSS campaigns that we have conducted so far have given us a baseline of expectations for the current network. It is very unlikely that all stations will be able to track all the satellites during the same period with sufficient data density to satisfy every mission. We recognize that we need to categorize different stations based on capabilities and availabilities. There are simulations underway to try to evaluate some options that might help us optimize our tracking activities. These simulations depend of course on the capabilities that we can expect from the stations in the future; we are considering projections for 5 and 10 years into the future. We understand that none of us can project with certainty for the long term, but we would like to find out from the stations what you think your situation will be.

This poster is an attempt to summarize the replies received to date. It took several reminders until we received a credible number of replies for the process to be considered successful. We thank all the stations that took the time to complete and return promptly the questionnaire and we hope that those who did not yet do that, as well as the new stations that recently joined the network, will do so in the near-future.