Updates to the ILRS Predictions and Data Formats

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Since the adoption by the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS) of the Consolidated Prediction Format (CPF) in 2004 and the Consolidated laser Ranging Data format (CRD) in 2007, there has been a slow influx of suggestions for additions and improvements to the formats, including changes for the European Laser Time Transfer (ELT) mission, additional configuration items, and better compatibility for those ranging to debris. These suggestions were winnowed and additional suggestion were solicited and considered, with the CPF format version 2.00 being officially released in June, 2018 and the CRD version 2.00 being released later in 2018. At the same time, updated sample code and test files were released for ease of implementation by prediction providers, stations, operations and data centers, analysts, and other users. The Analysis Standing Committee, several stations and several prediction providers agreed to be early adopters and help test the new formats and software end-to-end before involving the rest of the ILRS. Discussed here is an overall view of the changes as well as the current status and anticipated schedule.