

# The IGEX Campaign

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**T**he first internationally organized campaign to observe GLONASS, the Russian satellite system that is similar to the U.S. Global Positioning system (GPS), is scheduled to begin this September and last for 3 months. The experiment is titled IGEX (International GLONASS Experiment). Its objectives are to establish the first global observation campaign of the GLONASS system and to evaluate the potential applications for geodesy and geophysics.

A primary objective is to track the GLONASS satellites and determine precise GLONASS orbits for geodetic applications. The campaign will also contribute to improve the reference-frame ties between the GPS and GLONASS systems in order to allow future interoperability. This is a joint project of Commission VIII of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), which is the Commission for International Coordination of Space Techniques for Geodesy and Geodynamics (CSTG) and the

International GPS Service (IGS). A Call for Proposals soliciting participation was announced in March of this year.

The planning committee is organizing the participation in the campaign in four areas:

- Observing stations
- Data management
- Data Analysis
- Evaluation

Interested groups are encouraged to become involved in one or more areas.

The results of IGEX will be

- Data from a global network of GLONASS stations, many collocated with the IGS network, as well as with SLR (satellite laser ranging) and VLBI (very long baseline interferometry)
- Precise GLONASS ephemeris in a conventional format (sp3)
- Earth rotation parameters
- Stations coordinates

and perhaps other research data targeting applications for the ionosphere, troposphere, and timing.

The IGEX campaign is planned for September 20, 1998 to December 20, 1998. Additional information can be obtained at the following Web site:

<http://lareg.ensg.ign.fr/IGEX>

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