

**Results of the IERS survey for a possible UTC re-definition
(Daniel Gambis, EOP product Center, January 2003)**

UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) is computed from TAI by the introduction of leap seconds such that UTC is maintained within 1 second of UT1. Since 1972, these leap seconds have been added on December 31 or June 30, at the rate of about one every 18 months. The relevant bulletins are:
Bulletin C , Announcement of the leap seconds in UTC.
Bulletin D , Announcement of the value of DUT1 truncated at 0.1s for transmission with time signals.

Recently, some communities linked to telecommunications and navigational systems have proposed a revision of the definition of UTC to avoid the discontinuities due to the intermittent leap seconds. The Earth Orientation Product Center is responsible for prediction and announcement of the leap second (Bulletin C) and the announcement of the value of DUT1 truncated at 0.1s for transmission with time signals. It was thus of prime importance to question the users of Bulletins C and D to survey opinion concerning a possible redefinition of UTC. The questionnaire was sent via e-mail and also by usual airmail to about one thousand users altogether. 247 responses were received and processed in Summer 2002. The main results and statistics are given in the following diagrams:

