



## Editorial

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## Editorial of Special Issue

The Austrian Geodetic Commission (ÖGK) is the national organisation in Austria related to the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) which is one of the seven associations of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).

Every four years IUGG and its associations hold a General Assembly. The IAG uses these general assemblies to present the work performed, to review the structure of IAG, to appoint new officers and to organise a suite of symposia. The XXIII General Assembly of IUGG will take place in Sapporo, Japan, June 30 to July 11, 2003.

It has been a requirement that member countries of IAG prepare a National Report about the geodetic activities during the past four years for presentation at the general assemblies. However, quite often these National Reports provide only statistical information, rather than details about geodetic research work. Considering this situation, the ÖGK has decided to prepare a collection of geodetic research papers by Austrian institutions on the occasion of the forthcoming General Assembly.

The authors of this special issue of the Österreichische Zeitschrift für Vermessung & Geoinformation (VGI) represent the two Austrian universities, i.e., the Vienna University of Technology (TUW) and the Graz University of Technology (TUG), which offer the full programme in geodesy, and the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV). Several of the papers are co-authored by scientists from abroad which shows the strong links of Austrian groups to the international geodetic community.

The main task of this special issue is to give the international geodetic research community an idea about the various topics Austrian geodesists are working on and also to show to those Austrian colleagues, who are usually involved in practical work, the new developments Austrian Scientists are involved in. The variety of research topics indicates how closely geodesy is related

The present issue of the Österreichische Zeitschrift für Vermessung & Geoinformation (VGI) may be considered a "snapshot" of the geodetic research work carried out in Austria. As a snapshot, it has the shortcoming that only limited areas of active research can be covered. I sincerely hope that additional special issues of VGI will help to broaden the picture about the impressive geodetic research activities. One paper of this issue of VGI provides a status report on the Austrian geoid, the other papers report on investigations of meteorology using geodetic space measurements, on modelling of GPS satellite clocks, on satellite navigation systems, on the development of a special calibration facility, and on applications of geodetic methods in engineering and in landslide studies. On behalf of ÖGK I would like to thank the authors for their efforts in preparing these very interesting papers.

The Austrian Geodetic Commission is proud to present this window on Austrian geodetic research work to the international and national geodetic community.

*Fritz K. Brunner  
President of ÖGK*

to its neighbouring disciplines such as geophysics, meteorology, space science, and computer science. Joint efforts in different fields are needed to reach the goals which are common in modern society, such as precise navigation on Earth or a thorough description of the various interactions in 'system Earth'.

On behalf of all authors and of the two co-editors, I would like to thank the Austrian Society of Geodesy and Geoinformation for providing this platform for the publications. In particular I am grateful to Wolfgang Gold, editor-in-chief of the VGI, for taking care of the layout of the papers and solving all technical problems. Finally, it has to be mentioned that all papers of this issue were subject to an external reviewing process.

*Harald Schuh  
Main-editor of this special issue*