Joint Programmatic Activities
**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 2005**

Implementation of a plan for structural changes to the IMS and IDC Divisions started at the end of 2005. As the construction of the monitoring regime advanced, the PTS paid increased attention to the successful coordination of provisional O&M. In this context, the PTS Operations Centre was established in March 2005, in time for the performance testing phase of SPT1. The IMS Reporting System (IRS) for logging and tracking operational incidents in the IMS was also expanded beyond its original purpose of tracking problems with IMS stations, to cover incidents in all parts of the data collection and distribution chain. Planning, implementation and evaluation of the performance testing phase of SPT1 resulted in the establishment of baseline performance under the current provisional mode of operation. Three training courses were jointly organized by the IMS and IDC Divisions.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PTS**

In response to the report by the external review team, the IDC Division in cooperation with the IMS Division devised a plan for implementing structural changes to both Divisions. The Commission, at Part III of its Twenty-Fifth Session, expressed its understanding that all steps proposed in the plan would be carried out on the basis of regular reporting to and feedback from the Policy Making Organs and taking into consideration the concerns of delegations. The reorganization started at the end of 2005.

**COORDINATION OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

As the construction of the monitoring regime advances, the task of provisional O&M becomes ever more important. The PTS paid increased attention in 2005 to the successful coordination of O&M.

The PTS continued to perform provisional O&M under more relaxed guidelines (in particular for data availability rates) than those expressed in the draft IMS and IDC Operational Manuals, which provide requirements for performance following EIF of the Treaty. Nevertheless, processes and procedures are being designed, tested and practised so that the standards prevailing after EIF can be met.

*Daily operations meeting.*

*PTS Operations Centre.*
Provisional operation of the monitoring system involves generation of data at the remote facility, as well as transmission of the data to the IDC in Vienna, receipt and storage of the data, automatic and interactive processing of the data to create bulletins, and finally forwarding of data and products to States Signatories.

In 2005, the PTS further developed unified tools and processes to record and to track operational incidents in the verification system and to monitor its state of health (SOH). The PTS Operations Centre was established in March 2005, in time for the performance testing phase of SPT1. It focused in 2005 on the data collection process, paying particular attention to incident management. The need for the Operations Centre was clearly demonstrated by the preparatory phase of SPT1 (in 2004). Its establishment prior to the commencement of the performance testing phase allowed the benefits of this approach to be utilized during the test.

These activities continued to involve the combined efforts of the IDC and IMS Divisions. Reasonable progress was made in the integration of processes and procedures from the two Divisions and, where necessary, new processes and procedures were defined and developed. The Operations Centre is staffed by personnel from various Sections of the two Divisions, who share the daily monitoring functions. It provides centralized monitoring and support functions and enables the efficient resolution of incidents, including the forwarding of information on more complex incidents to the appropriate party for resolution. The tools and processes of the Operations Centre generate O&M statistics, which can be used for developing knowledge to allow the elaboration of policies to enhance performance and to optimize costs.

**DEVELOPMENT OF INCIDENT TRACKING SYSTEMS**

The IRS is the current PTS tool for logging and tracking operational incidents in the IMS. During 2005, this incident tracking system was expanded beyond its original purpose of tracking problems with IMS stations, to cover incidents in all parts of the data collection and distribution chain. In parallel, the PTS began to use the exploratory System-Wide Incident Tracking System (SWIT) and prototype SOH monitoring workflow with Web interface to define and document the future requirements for SOH monitoring and SWIT. This activity will progress well into 2006. Experience with the IRS and this experimental system will allow the PTS to develop an incident tracking system adapted to its specific needs and to the variety of complex processes involved in the successful acquisition and processing of data and distribution of data and products.

**SYSTEM-WIDE PERFORMANCE TEST**

The PTS conducted the performance testing phase of SPT1 in April–June 2005, including all stations in IDC operations. Altogether, 163 IMS stations (about 50% of the complete monitoring system) and five radionuclide laboratories took part in that test.

April and May 2005 were devoted to performance measurements in order to establish a system-wide performance baseline under the current provisional mode of operation. During June 2005, 21 test case scenarios were implemented on a controlled basis to analyse the response of the system.

The test provided the framework and data for further evaluation and assessment of the verification system,
while contributing to the development of the draft IMS and IDC Operational Manuals. A preliminary evaluation and assessment framework was applied on a trial basis during the test.

The last phase of SPT1, in the second half of 2005, focused on evaluation of and reporting on the performance tests. NDCs, IMS station operators and radionuclide laboratories played an active role in this phase, as outlined in the PTS guidelines for the NDC evaluation of SPT1.

JOINT IMS AND IDC TRAINING COURSES

In 2005, three training courses were jointly organized by the IMS and IDC Divisions: an introductory course for station operators and NDC managers (Vienna, 18–22 April); and two regional technical courses for station operators and NDC technical staff (Kiev, Ukraine, 6–10 June, and Gaborone, Botswana, 18–22 July). The two regional training courses included a special programme for station operators and NDC staff.