ISO Geodetic Registry

Item class Ellipsoid

Name Bessel 1841

Item statusVALIDIdentifier996AliasBessel

Information source Title The Universal Grids and the Transverse Mercator

and Polar Stereographic Map Projections

Author National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
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Information source Title Ueber einen Fehler in der Berechnung der

französischen Gradmessung und seinen Einfluss

auf die Bestimmung der Figur der Erde

Author F.W. Bessel Publication date 1841-12-01

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Remarks The Bessel ellipsoid was derived in 1841 by Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel,

based on several meridian arcs and other data of continental geodetic networks of Europe, Russia and the British Survey of India. It is based on 10 meridional arcs and 38 precise measurements of astrogeodetic latitude and longitude. The dimensions of the ellipsoid axes were defined by logarithms in keeping with former calculation methods. The original axes were defined as a=3272077.14 and b=3261139.33 toise. This was based a weighted mean of values from several authors but did not account for differences in the length of the various toise. The

"Bessel toise" is therefore of uncertain length.

Semi-major axis 6377397.155 m Inverse flattening 299.1528128 m