The origins of ISES go back to 1928 with the initiation by the International Union of Radio Science (URSI) of regular forecasts of radio conditions, named URSIgrams. The International Geophysical Year (IGY) saw the start of the international geophysical calendar which featured designated ‘world days’ for coordinated observations. A series of regional warning centres and a world warning agency were also set up to provide alerts about solar-terrestrial activity. In 1962 all these functions were combined into the International URSIgram and World Days Service (IUWDS) which, in 1998, changed its name to the International Space Environment Service (ISES). Regional warning centres (RWCs) are well established in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, India, Japan, Poland, Russia, Sweden, United States and new RWCs have recently been established in South Africa and Brazil. The mission of ISES is to encourage and facilitate near-real-time international monitoring and prediction of the space environment, to assist users reduce the impact of space weather on activities of human interest. Users of the services of RWCs include: high frequency (HF) radio communicators; mineral surveyors using geophysical techniques; power line and pipeline authorities; operators of satellites and a host of commercial and scientific users. The increasing sophistication and sensitivity of modern technology has resulted in a steadily expanding range of applications where a knowledge of the solar-terrestrial environment is important and ISES activities continue to evolve to meet these needs.