



**Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy
(SOFIA)
Observing Cycle 8**

Call for Proposals

July 20, 2019

Version 1.0

There are two different Calls for Proposals for SOFIA's Cycle 8: 1) the *SOFIA Legacy Program and Archival Research Program* and 2) SOFIA's regular *Observing Cycle 8* (this document). Documentation and other information pertaining to these Calls may be found at <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/proposal-documents>.

Key Dates

Release of Call for Proposals	May 31, 2019
Call for Proposals Update on Website	July 20, 2019
Proposals Due	September 6, 2019 21:00 PDT (September 7, 2019 04:00 UTC)
Anticipated Announcement of Selections	December 2019
Cycle 8 Period	April 25, 2020 – April 24, 2021

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Change Log:

June 10, 2019: Modifications to the maximum available solicited observing time for Regular and Legacy proposals (Sections 1.1 and 1.6)

June 27, 2019: Minor correction to Section 1.1; no programmatic updates.

July 20, 2019: No updates required.

1. SOFIA Observing Cycle 8 Program Description

1.0. *New Policies and Capabilities for Cycle 8:*

- A new pilot archival research program is offered in Cycle 8. Proposals for archival research are solicited under the separate call for SOFIA Legacy Program proposals, which is being continued as in Cycle 7.
- The new FORCAST slit-scan mode is offered in Cycle 8, including non-aligned slit directions.
- The FORCAST Level 4 mosaicking capability is available.
- Cycle 8 is potentially the last cycle in which FORCAST will be offered, depending on funding and proposal pressure.
- All GREAT modes and frequencies described in the Observer's Handbook are offered in this call. Frequencies close to the band limits in all GREAT bands are offered on a best-effort basis contingent on local oscillator availability.
- The new HAWC+ scan-pol mode is offered as shared-risk in Cycle 8.
- The 63 μm filter of HAWC+ will be offered as shared-risk in Cycle 8.
- The rules and procedures for resubmittal of currently active proposals have been clarified and extended (see Sec. 2.1.4).

- **Proposers are reminded to check the SOFIA website for a formal update to the Call for Proposals provided on July 20, 2019 that incorporates any late changes in the Observatory offerings.**

1.1. Introduction:

The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is pleased to invite proposals for Cycle 8 observations, which will take place in the time period April 25, 2020 – April 24, 2021. This Call for Proposals, issued by the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) on behalf of NASA, solicits proposals for approximately 300 hours of observing time. Funding to support the selected applicants will also be issued through USRA. Contingent on budget confirmation and NASA approval, the total Guest Observer funding available for Cycle 8 is expected to be approximately \$3M.

This Call is open to all qualified astronomers in the U.S. and outside the U.S., except for those currently affiliated with German institutions. Astronomers with a German professional affiliation must participate through a separate German Call for Proposals administered by the German SOFIA Institute (Deutsches SOFIA Institut; DSI) on behalf of the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft und Raumfahrt; DLR). DSI personnel, even if based in the U.S., are considered affiliated with a German institution and must submit any proposals to the DLR queue. Scientists based in Germany and affiliated with the European Southern Observatory (ESO) or the European Space Agency (ESA) are considered to be not affiliated with a German institution, and may respond to this Call for Proposals. Only researchers with a U.S. affiliation are eligible to receive financial support through this solicitation (Sec. 1.6).

In addition to the approximately 300 hours available under this Call, and the time available through the SOFIA Legacy Program (<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/proposal-documents/>), approximately 80 hours of observing time will be available to German Guest Observers through the DSI Call. An additional 7% of the available Research Hours on SOFIA are set aside as Director's Discretionary Time, and the Science Instrument development teams have an allocation of Guaranteed Time as specified in the SOFIA Science Utilization Policies¹. Calibration observations are part of the observatory overhead and the required time is accounted for when calculating the total observing time solicited herein.

Projects wishing to analyze data currently in the SOFIA Science Archive may propose to the SOFIA Archival Research Program (SARP), offered through the parallel SOFIA Legacy and Archive call or may request support through the NASA Astrophysics Data Analysis Program (ADAP; <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/grant-solicitations/>).

All observing proposals that are considered to be scientifically well-justified through scientific peer review will be considered for selection through this Call. Preference will be given to substantial investigations that demonstrate significant scientific impact from SOFIA observations. Programs using multi-wavelength data from major facilities (ALMA,

¹ Available at <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/sofia-overview/steering-documents>

HST, Spitzer, etc.) in conjunction with SOFIA are highly encouraged. Programs that will inform future JWST observations are also highly encouraged.

For Cycle 8, SOFIA will offer six instruments. The available instruments are EXES, FIFI-LS, FORCAST, FPI+, GREAT (upGREAT and 4GREAT), and HAWC+. The general capabilities of the instruments are given in the Table below.

Instrument	Description	Coverage	See Footnote
EXES (Echelon-Cross- Echelle Spectrograph)	High Resolution ($R > 10^5$) Echelle Spectrometer	5 – 28 μm	2
FIFI-LS (Field Imaging Far-Infrared Line Spectrometer)	Dual Channel Integral Field Grating Spectrometer	51 – 120 μm 115 – 203 μm	3
FORCAST (Faint Object infraRed CAmera for the SOFIA Telescope)	Mid-IR Dual Channel Imager and Grism Spectrometer	5 – 25 μm 25 – 40 μm	4
FPI+ (Focal Plane Imager Plus)	Visible Light High Speed Camera	360 – 1100 nm	5
GREAT, upGREAT/4GREAT (German REceiver for Astronomy at Terahertz frequencies)	High Resolution ($R > 10^6$) Heterodyne Spectrometer; Multi-Pixel Spectrometer	0.49-0.635 THz 0.890-1.100 THz 1.24-1.39, 1.43-1.5 THz 1.83 – 2.070 THz 2.49-2.59 THz 4.74 THz	6
HAWC+ (High-resolution Airborne Wideband Camera-Plus)	Far-Infrared Camera and Polarimeter	five bands at 53, *63, 89, 154, & 214 μm	7

*HAWC+ 63 μm band is offered in Cycle 8 as Shared Risk.

SOFIA Cycle 8 observations will take place in a number of Science Flight Campaigns over the duration of the cycle. The campaigns will be interspersed with aircraft maintenance and instrument commissioning. A single Southern Hemisphere deployment with two science

² Echelon-Cross- Echelle Spectrograph

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/instruments/exes.html>

³ Field Imaging Far-Infrared Line Spectrometer

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/instruments/fifils.html>

⁴ Faint Object infraRed CAmera for the SOFIA Telescope,

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/instruments/forcast.html>

⁵ Focal Plane Imager,

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/instruments/fpiplus.html>

⁶ German REceiver for Astronomy at Terahertz frequencies,

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/instruments/great.html>

⁷ High-resolution Airborne Wideband Camera-plus HAWC+,

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/instruments/hawcplus.html>

flight series (instruments) is expected for the Cycle 8 time period, nominally in the boreal summer of 2020. The SOFIA program is developing the ability to execute “suitcase deployments,” where a single flight and support crew carries out a flight series at a remote location for a limited period. Such deployments will have a limited flight cadence and a higher execution risk, but will allow out-of-season southern observations or other location- and time-specific observations (including occultations) not possible from Palmdale.

1.2. The SOFIA Program

SOFIA is a joint project of NASA and DLR. SOFIA Science Mission Operations (SMO), located primarily at the NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, is responsible for the scientific operation of the observatory. The SMO is operated by USRA under contract to NASA. The Deutsches SOFIA Institut (DSI) located at the University of Stuttgart is the primary interface between SOFIA and the German astronomical community. The SOFIA aircraft operations are managed by the NASA Neil Armstrong Flight Research Center. The aircraft itself has its home base at Building 703 of the Neil Armstrong Flight Research Center (AFRC; formerly the Dryden Airborne Operations Facility, DAOF) in Palmdale, California.

SOFIA is a 2.7 m telescope, with an effective, unvignetted, diameter of 2.5 m, housed in a Boeing 747-SP aircraft. Observations are typically carried out at altitudes between 11.9 km (39,000 ft) and 13.7 km (45,000 ft). These altitudes place the observatory above at least 99% and up to 99.8% of the obscuring atmospheric H₂O vapor. The observatory can operate in the 0.3–1600 μm wavelength range. The six instruments offered in this Call cover the range 0.36–612 μm. These instruments provide imaging, spectroscopic, and polarimetric capabilities for a wide range of scientific investigations.

Instrument characteristics relevant to the Cycle 8 call can be found in Section 3.2. Complete descriptions of the instruments and their capabilities can be found at <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/instruments>. Links to the SOFIA publication archives, and selected observatory and instrument papers can be found in Appendix C.

1.3. Cycle 8 Schedule

The nominal schedule for the Cycle 8 observing program is as follows:

31 May 2019	Release of Call for Proposals
20 July 2019	Call for Proposals update
6 September 2019, 21:00 PDT	Proposal Submission deadline
7 September 2019, 04:00 UTC	Proposal Submission deadline
December 2019	Proposal Selections Announced
14 February 2020	Phase II deadline for accepted proposals
25 April 2020 – 24 April 2021	Cycle 8 observing period

SOFIA observations in Cycle 8 will be conducted in a number of Science Flight Campaigns⁸ covering the period April 25, 2020 – April 24, 2021. A single Southern Deployment consisting of two science Flight Series is expected to take place during the boreal summer of 2020. Additional single-instrument “suitcase deployments” will be considered depending on proposal pressure and available resources. The detailed layout of Science Flight Series within each Science Flight Campaigns will depend on the selected proposals and instrument availability.

1.4. General Guidelines and Policies

Observing requests of all sizes will be considered through this call. In addition, a separate call for SOFIA Legacy Programs

(<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/proposal-documents>)

specifically solicits large programs including the development of tools and higher-level data products. Large programs (of any size, up to the total offered) that do not meet the characteristics of Legacy Science may be proposed through this call.

Beginning with Cycle 6, “Regular Proposals” have been accepted in three bands—Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3—to give the General Observer a better estimate of priority and likelihood of execution. These bands are characterized as such:

Priority 1 (“will do”) proposals are the highest-ranked category of proposals. They will strongly drive the scheduling and thus have a high likelihood of completion within Cycle 8. If, for technical reasons, they cannot be completed within Cycle 8, then Priority 1 proposals will be carried over into Cycle 9. Full funding for U.S. Priority 1 proposals will be released at the time of acceptance. It is expected that about 25% of the available observing time will be accepted into this category.

Priority 2 (“should do”) proposals are likely to be completed within Cycle 8, but the uncertainties of scheduling precludes releasing full funding before the first proposed observations have been started. Priority 2 proposals will not be carried over into the next cycle if incomplete. It is expected that about 50% of the available observing time will be accepted into this category.

⁸ SOFIA science observing definitions:

- a) *Science Flights* - individual flights primarily devoted to obtaining astronomical science data.
- b) *Science Flight Series* - Contiguous series of science flights, all with the same instrument.
- c) *Science Flight Campaigns* - One or more science flight series, beginning and ending with a non-science, engineering activity.
- d) *Science Observing Cycles* - One or more of flight campaigns that are covered by a single science Call for Proposals.

Priority 3 (“do if time”) proposals will be added to Flight Plans when no higher ranked targets are available. Funding for U.S.-led Priority 3 proposals will be released incrementally as observations are executed. It is expected that about 50% of the available observing time will be accepted into this category.

The observing time allocated to the regular programs, together with the “Survey Proposals” (Sec. 2.1.2), intentionally over-subscribes the available time in order to allow for inefficiencies and contingencies in flight planning (Sec 3.3). The exact selection fractions in each band will depend on target locations and competition.

Observations lost due to observatory or instrument hardware or software failures, weather, or other reasons, will not be rescheduled automatically. The observatory has included contingency flight opportunities in the overall schedule to minimize the impact of lost flights, but award of an investigation is not a guarantee that the observation will be executed. Sky visibility or other observing constraints may also prevent completion of a selected investigation. Priority 1 regular proposals and accepted “Thesis-Enabling” (Sec. 2.1.3) proposals will automatically be carried forward into the next cycle if incomplete. Thus, accepted proposals in these categories from Cycle 7 need not repropose to this Call.

Observations that are part of an **active Priority 2 or 3 Cycle 7 SOFIA program**, but which have not been executed at the time of the Cycle 8 proposal deadline may be re-proposed, but must be clearly identified as such – see Section 2.1.4 Resubmitted Proposals.

Because of the highly constrained nature of SOFIA observation scheduling and the large planning overheads incurred in such observations, observations that require SOFIA to be located in a specific geographical area at a specific time (typically occultation observations), or observations that must be made in a single time window less than 4 hours in duration, should be entered with a minimum time request of 6 hours per event (even if the targeted event is shorter).

1.4.1 Proposal Process

The SOFIA Cycle 8 proposal process will consist of two parts: Phase I and Phase II. Phase I requires the preparation and submission of a science justification, a feasibility analysis for the proposed program, and a high-level description of the proposed targets and observations. This Phase I proposal will form the basis of the peer review and proposal selection by the SMO Director. Proposals that are awarded observing time based on the evaluation process described in Section 1.5 will subsequently be required to submit Phase II observation specifications following guidelines provided by the SMO. These submissions will provide the SMO and instrument PIs with the detailed definition of each observation to be executed for the program. In addition, proposers affiliated with U.S. institutions will be invited to submit a budget, based on funding guidelines provided by the SMO. Note that detailed observation set-ups (such as the availability of suitable guide stars), which are not required in Phase I, may cause an observation to be deemed unfeasible,

once fully defined. Hence the proposer is encouraged to develop their observation as much as possible in Phase I.

SOFIA Cycle 8 Phase I proposals must be prepared and submitted using the Unified SOFIA Proposal and Observation Tool (USPOT):

<https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/observationPlanning/installUSPOT/uspotDownload.jsp>), which is a Java-based application. The prospective proposer should download USPOT to a local computer. The proposal consists of formatted information filled in via the USPOT form fields (such as proposer information, scientific category, instrument, target and exposure information) and a file containing the scientific justification and other information (details in section 2.2.1), to be uploaded in PDF format. USPOT will also be used for Phase II inputs and, whereas only some observation parameters are required for Phase I submissions, proposers may elect to define their observations in greater detail in Phase I. USPOT is available for most commonly used platforms, including Mac OS X, Windows and Linux.

In order to maximize the future utility of the SOFIA Science Archive and simplify observation duplication checks, the SOFIA project has, starting with Cycle 5, implemented a target naming convention. Appendix B outlines this requirement.

An outline of the proposal preparation process may be found in section 2 and further details about USPOT can be found in the USPOT Manual

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/uspot-manual>.

1.4.2. Who May Propose

Leading a proposal in the U.S. SOFIA Cycle 8 Program is open to scientists from all categories of U.S. and non-U.S. organizations, including educational institutions, industry, nonprofit institutions, NASA Centers, and other Government agencies. Members of German organizations, wishing to lead a proposal, including DSI staff stationed in the U.S., must participate through the DSI-led program.

Each SOFIA Cycle 8 proposal must identify a single Principal Investigator (PI) who assumes responsibility for the conduct of the scientific investigation. Proposal Co-investigators must have well-defined roles in the investigation, which will be evaluated as part of the proposal review process. Following selection by the SMO Director, the SMO staff will communicate formally only with the PI (or a person designated by the PI) of each proposal, except for funding issues where communications will be primarily with the institutional Sponsored Research Office (or equivalent). It is the responsibility of the PI (or designee) to provide the SOFIA project, in a timely manner, all information necessary for implementing observations, and to respond to any questions concerning observational constraints or configurations.

Note: Those with a German professional affiliation may participate as Co-Investigators on proposals submitted in response to this Call. They may not be PIs on the proposals, nor in any way be designated as the contact or lead investigator.

1.4.3. Late Proposals

Consistent with USRA and NASA policy, no late proposals will be considered. A proposal will be considered “on time” only if all necessary components have been received by the published deadline. Note that processing delays at the proposer's home institution, shipment delays of the proposal, or Internet delays, do not excuse the late submission of a proposal.

1.5. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Process

Proposals submitted in response to this Call will be evaluated in a competitive peer review. The peer review panel, including its chair, will be recruited from the astronomical community and be subject to the standard NASA procedures and rules.

The following factors will be used in evaluating proposals for the SOFIA Cycle 8 Program.

- The overall scientific merit of the proposed investigation.
- The broader scientific impact of the investigations to astronomy.
- The feasibility of accomplishing the objectives of the investigation.
- The degree to which the investigation uses SOFIA’s unique capabilities.
- The competence and relevant experience of the PI and any collaborators to carry the investigation to a successful conclusion.

Proposals providing synergies with major observing facilities will be given particular consideration. The scientific review panels will be given an assessment of the technical feasibility of each proposal as determined by the SMO. After acceptance of an observing program, successful proposers must provide the required inputs to detailed observing plans for submission to the SMO. Instructions for completing these Phase II inputs will be distributed to the PIs of the selected proposals.

The SOFIA project reserves the right to select only a portion of a proposer's investigation, in which case the PI of the proposal will be given the opportunity to accept or decline the implementation of the partial selection.

Because of the complexity of flight scheduling involving sky visibility, instrument availability, and the need to produce efficient flight plans, selection of an investigation does not guarantee observation. At the discretion of the SMO director, an appropriate over-subscription of the available flight times may be accepted via the peer review process with an associated prioritization, which will allow for contingencies in flight planning. The SMO Director will approve the implementation of the observing prioritization and target selection.

1.6. Funding for U.S.-based Investigators

Funds for awards under this solicitation are expected to be available to investigators at U.S. institutions subject to the annual NASA budget cycle. It is expected that the Cycle 8 budget for such grants will be approximately \$3M.

At the discretion of the SMO Director, U.S.-based Co-Investigators on successful non-U.S. proposals (accepted through this solicitation) will also be eligible for funding at a reduced rate, as with other NASA observatories such as Hubble, Chandra and Spitzer. Such requests will require a clear justification of the funding requirements of the U.S.-based co-I. As described above in Sec 1.4.2., the Phase I proposal must provide a well-defined role for the U.S.-based co-investigator in the investigation.

Budgets should not be submitted with the proposals in response to this Call⁹. The **selected** investigators will receive a funding guideline from the SOFIA Science Center based on the scope of the approved observing program, complexity of the data analysis, and the available budget for the SOFIA Cycle 8 program. Proposers are asked to include a description of the data analysis plan as part of the Technical Feasibility section of their Phase I proposal. A budget summary and narrative description of how these funds will be used must be submitted after the receipt of the funding guideline. The deadline for budget submittal will be announced after the proposal selection and included in the funding guidelines document. An institutional signature will be required when a budget is submitted.

Archival SOFIA data may represent the primary source for an Astrophysics Data Analysis Program (ADAP) Proposal under the NASA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) solicitation or under the Call for the pilot SOFIA Archival Research Program (SARP). Such investigations are, however, not solicited in this Call.

2. Proposal Preparation and Submission

2.1. Types of Programs

Three types of programs are solicited in response to this Call: Regular Programs, Survey Programs, and Target of Opportunity Programs. A single proposal may not mix these three different program types. Proposers of Regular Programs and Survey Programs can also request status as a Thesis-Enabling Program. If not selected as a Thesis-Enabling Program, then these proposals revert back to their original designation and can still be selected as a Regular Program or a Survey Program. Proposers for Target of Opportunity programs may not request status as a Thesis-Enabling Program.

⁹ This differs from the separate Call for SOFIA Legacy Program (SLP) and SOFIA Archival Research Program (SARP) proposals, which must include a detailed budget.

A limited fraction (approximately 25% of allocated observing time) of the most highly ranked Regular Programs in Cycle 8 will be assigned status as Priority 1 and will be carried over between cycles if they fail to be scheduled during the Cycle 8 period. Proposers do not need to, and cannot, request this status, as it will be assigned by the SMO Director, as part of the proposal selection process. The SMO Director will communicate such assignments directly to relevant GOs.

With the exception of Thesis-Enabling programs, regular programs in the Priority 1 category, and SOFIA Legacy Programs¹⁰, proposals are active only for the duration of the Cycle 8 observing period. Observations accepted in other categories, will not be carried over to future cycles.

2.1.1. Regular Programs

Observations of specific targets with known positions and timing constraints (including targets with no constraints) will constitute regular observing programs. This also includes time-critical observations and observations of known Solar System objects.

The intent is to execute all the highly-ranked observations accepted in a regular program. By necessity, efficient scheduling of SOFIA requires a larger pool of candidate observations in a given Cycle. The SMO director may therefore accept regular proposals as Priority 3 over and above the maximum available hours. Such programs will be scheduled at lower priority than those accepted as Priority 1 or Priority 2, but with the intent to execute as large a fraction of the observations as possible.

2.1.2. Survey Programs

The Survey proposal category are intended to allow studies of a target class, as well as provide the SOFIA program flexibility in flight planning. These programs should identify a sample of targets and observations with a common scientific justification. The selection of Survey proposals will be primarily judged on scientific merit, but samples with uniform sky distributions will be prioritized as they provide the best flexibility in flight planning.

The intent is that a useful fraction of the targets in a given Survey program will be observed, but with no specific target observation guaranteed to be executed. The proposal should discuss and justify a scientifically useful sample size for completion. The proposer should provide well defined criteria, upon which the program can be considered complete, e.g. specify how many objects of this pool need to be observed to provide a scientifically useful result. The proposer is expected to specify more observations than fit into the allotted time, so it is easier to find observations that can act as fillers of open legs in a schedule, improving overall observatory efficiency. Providing more targets increases the probability of program completion.

¹⁰ SOFIA Legacy Program proposals are solicited in a separate Call.

2.1.3. Thesis-Enabling Programs

Thesis-Enabling programs are aimed at enhancing the support for and execution of doctoral theses based in a substantial part on SOFIA observations. Proposals with this attribute require a well-defined thesis program and an identified student. The PI (nominally the thesis advisor) can request up to two years of graduate student funding at the standard rate at the host university (capped at \$100k per year). A description of the thesis project, the role of SOFIA data, the anticipated timeline, and a short biographical sketch of the identified student must be included. An additional page is allowed for this material. Contingent on a sufficient ranking by the peer review, these programs will have their first year's funding released at proposal acceptance. The second year's funding will be released one year later, after submission of a status report to the SMO Director, demonstrating progress in the thesis project.

2.1.4. Resubmitted Proposals

Programs that have been accepted as **Priority 2** or **Priority 3** in Cycle 7 but not yet completed may be resubmitted for Cycle 8 if identified as resubmitted proposals in USPOT (note that **Priority 1** proposals are automatically continued into Cycle 8 if not observed, so should not be resubmitted¹¹). Resubmitted proposals are an exception to the normal rule that targets included in accepted Cycle 7 proposals will be removed as duplicates if included in a Cycle 8 proposal; for a resubmitted proposal a target will only be removed as a duplicate if it is actually observed in Cycle 7.

For a resubmitted proposal, the integration times on targets may be changed, targets removed, and the proposal text updated. However, no new targets or new wavelength observations of existing targets may be added to those requested in the original proposal. If proposers wish to add new wavelengths or new targets, these should be submitted separately as a new proposal rather than as a resubmitted proposal. New targets or wavelengths submitted as part of a resubmitted proposal are considered non-compliant and will be removed.

The inclusion of targets in a resubmitted proposal is based on the *accepted* target list of the original program. If targets were included in the original proposal but were disallowed (e.g. because they required a southern deployment and the instrument requested was not included in that deployment) then a request to observe these targets should be submitted as a new proposal, *not* as a resubmitted proposal.

When observations of a target across multiple cycles are necessary for monitoring purposes, a new proposal should be submitted and justified for each cycle. This is not considered a resubmitted proposal.

¹¹ Proposal modifications for Priority 1 observations should be addressed to the SMO director.

The resubmitted proposals category is intended only for programs accepted for the current cycle but not yet completed. Declined proposals from previous cycles should be submitted as new proposals.

Resubmitted proposals will be assessed by the Time Allocation Committee (TAC) together with new proposals. The TAC will be aware that these are resubmissions of previously accepted programs and will be permitted to take this into account in their recommended grades. There is no guarantee that a resubmitted proposal will receive the same priority as the original proposal, or that it will be accepted for scheduling in the upcoming cycle.

For funding purposes, resubmitted proposals (if accepted) are treated as a continuation of the original program. This means that:

- i. For programs accepted as Priority 2 in the current cycle, and for which observations are begun in that cycle (and thus funding granted for all targets), the resubmitted proposal will not attract further funding.
- ii. For programs accepted as Priority 3 in the current cycle, where funding has been granted for targets observed in that cycle, those targets remaining in the upcoming cycle will be funded as normal based on the priority granted to the proposal in that cycle.
- iii. For programs accepted as either Priority 2 or Priority 3 in the current cycle but for which no observations are made in that cycle, funding will be granted in the upcoming cycle based on the priority granted to the proposal in that cycle.

For resubmitted proposals, any changes of PI (or U.S. lead investigator for non-U.S.-led programs) or PI institution must be approved by the SMO director.

2.1.5. Target of Opportunity Programs

Target of Opportunity (ToO) proposals are invited in response to this Call. Both programs with known targets, but unknown timing of the observations, such as observations of a specific target at an unknown time (e.g. an identified recurrent nova in outburst), and programs targeting a class of astronomical events, but with unknown targets and timings (such as observations of an as yet unidentified comet or supernova), will be considered. For ToO observations, the proposal should contain a discussion of the triggering criteria, the required turn-around time between triggering and observation, and any other timing constraints.

Since SOFIA can only observe with a single instrument at the time, rapid turn-around ToO requests with a specific instrument may be difficult to implement, except for FPI+, which is always mounted. Hence, ToO proposals not meant for FPI+, should also address the viability and utility of observing the event/target with each of the available SOFIA instruments.

The SMO Director will have ultimate authority in recommending or rejecting the request that a selected ToO program be activated.

*Observations of specific Solar System targets or events whose times of occurrence and position can be predicted with sufficient accuracy in advance **do not** constitute ToO observations and should not be flagged as such, but should be submitted as Regular Proposals.*

2.1.6. Director's Discretionary Time Programs

In addition to the above, the SOFIA program accepts proposals for Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) programs. This category is intended for short, urgent observations that could not have been foreseen at the time of the proposal Call and that cannot wait for the next proposal cycle. In exceptional cases, proof-of-concept observations may be requested through the DDT path. However, a strong justification for not proposing such observations through the regular proposal process will be required. A few well-justified HIRMES observations may be accepted via the DDT path prior to its offering in Cycle 9, but the proposal team's capability of how to deal with HIRMES' raw data needs to be documented. **DDT proposals are not solicited through this Call for Proposals**, and should be directly addressed to the SMO Director, Dr. Harold Yorke. Further information about the DDT program can be found at the SOFIA website under:

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/proposal-calls/sofia-directors-discretionary-time>

2.2. Proposal Preparation

Each Cycle 8 proposal must be prepared using USPOT. The proposal information is entered directly into USPOT, while text sections including the scientific justification and feasibility analysis should be in PDF files, uploaded via USPOT¹².

Proposals must be written in English. The length of each section of the proposal should not exceed the page limits indicated in Section 2.2.1, using single-spaced 8.5x11 inch or A4 format with 1 inch (2.5 cm) margins. Proposals must be printed to PDF files with a font size no smaller than 11 points (about 6 characters per cm). Reviewers will only be provided the portion of each proposal that complies with the page limits.

The abstract entered directly into USPOT is limited to 300 words.

2.2.1 Proposal Text Sections (To be uploaded as a single PDF file)

The uploaded PDF file must contain the following sections in the order indicated for each proposed observing program. The page length limits are indicated.

Please note that for proposals longer than 9 pages total, DCS will return a warning about a too long proposal document. If all individual section limits have been adhered to, this warning may be ignored.

¹² <https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/observationPlanning/installUSPOT/uspotDownload.jsp>

1. Scientific Context (up to 0.5 pages)

Briefly summarize the proposed investigation with the following elements:

Context – What is the context and significance of this proposal to the broader field of astronomy?

Aims – How will the observations address the specific scientific questions in this proposal?

Methods – What are the key measurement techniques utilized in this investigation? How do they pertain to the unique capabilities of SOFIA?

Synergies – How does the proposed work share synergies with observations with other observatories and other laboratory/theory efforts?

Anticipated results – What are the expected data sets that will be produced in this investigation?

2. Scientific Justification (up to 3 pages + 1 additional for references only)

Describe the scientific objectives of the proposed investigation, clearly stating the goals and their significance to astronomy, and why SOFIA data are essential to the investigation. The results and status of previous/related SOFIA observations should be summarized. The page limit includes all text, figures and tables.

3. Feasibility and Path to Publication (up to 3 pages)

This section forms the basis for assessment of the technical feasibility of the proposed observations. The requested exposure time for each observation must be justified. The section should include the expected target fluxes and the signal-to-noise ratio required for each observation. The source (or method) for the flux estimates, and their accuracies should be addressed. Where applicable the spectral resolution required must be explicitly stated. Any other information about the proposed observations that would help the reviewer relate the technical needs to the scientific goals should be included in this section. Observing overheads and other indirect time estimates should follow the instructions given in the Observer's Handbook. This section should also contain the justification for special calibration procedures, if they have been requested (Section 3.5.2).

The technical feasibility section should include a brief discussion of the anticipated data analysis needed to accomplish the investigation. Specifically, describing the analysis tasks performed by proposers, after receiving the calibrated data from the SOFIA Science Center, will assist the reviewers in assessing the scope of the proposed effort.

Describe the plans for and constraints on the generation and timely submittal of research publications based on the proposed observations. If the requested SOFIA data depend on synergies with other observations or theoretical work, describe the status of those efforts.

4. Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator Biographical and Publication Data (one page for the PI with one additional page for all Co-Is)

A short biographical sketch for the PI should be provided and include a list of the most recent refereed publications relevant to the scientific proposal. Short biographical data, including their roles in the proposed project, should be provided for the Co-Is.

5. Thesis-Enabling Programs (one additional page)

Include a description of the thesis project that contains the expected role of SOFIA data and an estimated time line. A short biographical sketch for the identified student should be included, if not already included as a Co-I.

2.2.2. Exposure Time Estimates

Estimates of exposure times for individual SOFIA instruments can be made using the SOFIA Instrument Time Estimator (SITE)¹³, a web-based tool that provides total integration time or signal-to-noise for a given instrument, filter(s), source type (point, extended, emission line), and water vapor overburden. Algorithms and assumptions used are given in the Help link on the SITE webpage.

Printouts to PDF of the complete set of parameters used in SITE and/or other time estimators should be added as Appendix to the end of the proposal. They will help with the technical feasibility analysis at the SMO and will not count towards the page limit.

2.2.3. Sky Availability During Cycle 8

The sky availability for SOFIA observations is constrained by several factors, including the need to return to the Palmdale, California, home base at the end of a flight and the avoidance of restricted airspace. Due to these constraints, the southernmost declination available on flights departing and landing in Palmdale is -36° . This limit is calculated based on limits of flight plans and telescope pointing. Note that, depending on the sensitivity of a given observation to atmospheric opacities, the limiting Declination may be significantly more stringent in practice.

Flight rules generally require the cavity door be closed 30 minutes prior to local sunrise and that SOFIA land no later than the time of sunrise. The detailed rules for observations close to sunrise are complex. Any proposal considering observations that would require being executed close to sunrise are strongly encouraged to contact the SMO-Helpdesk in advance of submittal.

The instantaneous pointing of the telescope, relative to the aircraft, is restricted to $\pm 3^\circ$ cross-elevation (on the port (left hand) side of the plane) and elevations between 21 and 58 degrees (unvignetted).

¹³ <https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/proposalDevelopment/SITE/index.jsp>

The SMO has used the Cycle 4 and 5 accepted observations and Flight Series (by instrument) to produce “sky-availability density maps” showing where on the sky targets that would be particularly advantageous for SOFIA flight planning efficiency would be located. Links to these maps may be found on the Cycle 8 page

(<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/proposal-calls/cycle-8>) in the "Complementary Sky Positions" section. Targets in these areas of the sky, particularly in selected survey proposals, generally have a higher probability of being scheduled into flight plans than a target of equal importance located in a high-density region.

2.2.3.1. Southern Deployment

The SOFIA Program expects to conduct a single Southern Hemisphere deployment with two science instruments during Cycle 8. The deployment flights will be executed out of Christchurch (New Zealand) during part of the June-August 2020 period. The over-all scientific justification for the observations proposed will be a key determinant in which instruments are selected for deployment.

2.2.3.2. Suitcase Deployments

The SOFIA program is studying the option of performing shorter-duration, single-instrument deployments, to support science observation of southern targets not available during the boreal summer deployment, or for other location critical observations, not possible for flights out of Palmdale. Note that such “Suitcase Deployments” have a higher execution risk. Observations requiring “Suitcase Deployments” should be highlighted in the Feasibility section of the proposal.

2.2.3.3. Detailed Observation-Scheduling Planning

SOFIA proposers are not expected to lay out flight plans or perform detailed visibility analysis for their proposals. Such considerations are therefore not needed for the Phase I proposals. The SMO staff and the instrument teams will do the flight planning for the observing program. General target availability for a specific set of dates can be judged using the SOFIA Visibility Tool (VT). The stand-alone version is available for downloading at: <https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/observationPlanning/installVT/>.

2.3. Proposal Submittal

2.3.1 The Unified SOFIA Proposal and Observation Tool (USPOT)

Proposals must be submitted using the USPOT application available at the SOFIA Data Cycle Systems web pages (<https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/>). Upon successful upload, the system will generate an automatic message acknowledging the submittal. A confirmation email will be sent to the address provided in the proposal. Details about USPOT may be found in the Observer’s Handbook and the USPOT Manual.

The SOFIA proposal tool USPOT provides the user with a form-based interface for preparing a proposal and for electronic submission to the SOFIA Science Mission Operations. The USPOT is based on the IPAC SPOT tool which has already, in modified form, been used to prepare SOFIA Phase II inputs in earlier cycles. After downloading the appropriate package and following the installation instructions, the user starts a new proposal by launching the USPOT application. The proposer then fills out the necessary form fields including proposer information, abstract, instrument(s), and target lists. The Science and Technical Justification may be prepared using any text editor (e.g. MS Word, LaTeX, etc..) and saved as a PDF file. Using USPOT, the proposer then identifies this PDF file on a local disk for attachment to the proposal summary information. When the proposal is complete, the user submits the complete proposal directly to the SMO using USPOT. Upon successful submission, a unique identifier is returned for later reference.

Proposals can be repeatedly updated in USPOT and uploaded to DCS at any time before the proposal due date. Note that an updated proposal **replaces** all previously submitted versions - the SMO keeps only the latest proposal submission associated with a given proposal number.

On-line help for USPOT is available as a pop-up function in the application.

3. Observations and Data

3.1. Targets for Observations

All scientifically valid observations may be proposed, with the exception of those duplicated from Reserved Observations Catalog (ROC) lists (Appendix A), designated by each Science Instrument team, and observations that duplicate previously made observations.

Observations of targets in the GREAT ROC or in the FIFI-LS ROC may be proposed with the prior permission of the instrument's PI. GOs wishing to observe objects in one of these ROCs should therefore contact the instrument's PI in advance to reach agreement on collaboration. The SMO should be notified prior to proposal submission that this agreement has been reached and that the observations are permitted.

Duplication of observations (target, mode, and exposure time) obtained in earlier cycles is generally not allowed, and if proposed for must be identified as such and the necessity for duplication must be explicitly justified. Duplication of active proposals is also generally not allowed; these are identified by the SMO during the review process. Observers who wish to resubmit targets from a currently active proposal should see Section 2.1.4 Resubmitted Proposals.

Proposed observations are considered to duplicate previously observed or reserved observations if they duplicate the combination of position on the sky, instrument,

observation configuration, and length of observation. Hence, observations of the same target but in different filters or at different wavelengths are not considered duplicates.

3.1.1. Reserved Observations

As part of the instrument development contracts, the instrument teams were awarded a limited amount of Guaranteed Time Observations (GTO). Those teams with remaining GTO time for Cycle 8 have used these allocations to set aside a limited number of targets and associated exposure times as Reserved Observations that are listed in the respective Reserved Observation Catalogs (ROCs). In addition, the GREAT team receives an updated allocation of observing time in each cycle for which such reserved observations are specified. These reserved observations may not be proposed for, unless the GO has contacted the instrument PI and received permission to do so. The instrument PI can request to remain involved as part of a joint proposal, but may also decline to join the proposal. The instrument teams are not required to accept such invitations. For Cycle 8, ROCs exist for FIFI-LS and GREAT (see Appendix A).

A Reserved Observation consists of the combination of position on the sky, instrument, observation configuration, and length of observation. The observation configuration encompasses the basic scientific intent of the observation by specifying, for example, the wavelength range for broad-band photometry or grism spectroscopy or the frequency of observation for GREAT.

The ROCs for the instruments are independent of each other. The current ROCs also only apply to Cycle 8, and the Instrument PIs will have the opportunity to revise them prior to subsequent proposal calls. The SOFIA Legacy Program target list can also be revised in subsequent proposal calls.

If a reserved observation is proposed for, the justification for such a duplication must be clearly addressed in the proposal. At a minimum, any such proposals must aim to achieve a signal-to-noise ratio of twice that expected from the Reserved Observation or have a scientifically-justified duplication such as for temporal variability studies. Final determination of acceptability of proposed observations rests with the SMO Director.

3.1.2. Shared Risk Observations

The SOFIA program will endeavor to execute all accepted observations. To provide the maximum complement of capabilities, some instrument modes are offered either before being fully commissioned or where maintenance issues are possible that may put these modes at a larger risk. These modes are here classified as “Shared Risk.” For the purpose of this Call we define “Shared Risk” observations as those whereby the availability or characteristics of an instrument, one or more of its observing modes, and/or pipeline reduction software are known to be uncertain or questionable. Observations with instruments still under development will therefore always be “Shared Risk.” In addition, for instruments where critical parts are known to be at risk of failure, and where the resources to replace these parts may not be guaranteed, the relevant observations may also

be “shared risk.” For instance, because of the limited life-time of local oscillators and the uncertain characteristics of local oscillators near the band limits, some frequencies of the GREAT receivers may not be available throughout the observing Cycle.

3.1.3. Data rights

For regular programs, the data will be accessible to the general community after an exclusive use period of twelve months. The exclusive use period for all data products will end twelve months after the GO is given access to the calibrated (Level 3 or higher) data through staging to the SOFIA Science Archive (Sec. 3.5.1).

Proposers are strongly encouraged to consider waiving this exclusive use period to enhance the availability of their data sets for archival research and to broaden the impact of their observations.

3.2. Available Instruments and Observation Configurations

Six instruments will be available for Cycle 8 observations: EXES, FIFI-LS, FORCAST, FPI+, GREAT and HAWC+. This is potentially the last cycle for which FORCAST will be offered, depending on funding and proposal pressure.

The far-infrared echelle spectrometer HIRMES is expected to be offered during part of the Cycle 8 period under the Director’s Discretionary Time proposal process, after it has completed its first commissioning series, expected in Spring of 2020. For further information about expected HIRMES characteristics and sensitivities, please see the HIRMES page in the SOFIA website

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/instruments/hirmes>.

There are a number of observation configurations available or planned for each of the instruments. The following sections describe the observation configurations available for Cycle 8. Details are available in the Observer’s Handbook for Cycle 8, accessible at <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/observers-handbook-cycle-8>.

Each of the SOFIA Science Instruments falls into one of three classes: Facility-class Science Instruments (FSI), Principal Investigator-class Science Instruments (PSI) or Special Purpose Principal Investigator-class Science Instruments (SSI). No SSI instruments are offered in this Call. The different classes of instruments require different levels of interaction among the proposer, the science instrument team, and the SMO staff providing support, and are governed by the “SOFIA Science Utilization Policies of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)” available at <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/sofia-overview/steering-documents>.

Facility-class Science Instrument (FSI) — A general purpose, reliable and robust instrument that provides state-of-the-art science performance. FSIs are operated and maintained by the SMO in support of Guest Observers (GOs). FSIs may be offered for

shared risk observations prior to completed commissioning. Generally, no direct interactions with the instrument development team are required to propose for or to use the instrument. However, the FIFI-LS instrument team still has guaranteed time available during Cycle 8 and has therefore developed a ROC. The FIFI_LS PI has agreed to consider Cycle 8 proposal requests for observing objects in the FIFI-LS ROC (see Section 3.1).

For Cycle 8, FIFI-LS, FORCAST, FPI+ and HAWC+ are considered FSIs.

Principal Investigator-class Science Instrument (PSI) — A general-purpose instrument that is developed and maintained by the instrument team throughout its useful operating life. PSIs are operated by the Science Instrument team members, both for their own observations as well as for those of successful GOs. Proposers do not need to consult with the PSI Instrument Team before submitting their proposals. However, GOs are encouraged to interact with the Instrument team early, since this maximizes the chances for successful observations. Guest Observers will receive calibrated data for EXES and GREAT through the SOFIA Science Archive (see Section 3.5).

For Cycle 8, EXES is a PSI.

Proposers are encouraged to work closely with the EXES team in the definition and execution of the observations. Proposers are strongly encouraged to consult the instrument team about the feasibility of their Cycle 8 projects. Proposers are also encouraged to include EXES team members on their publications, as appropriate.

For Cycle 8, GREAT is a PSI.

For GO publications resulting directly from accepted SOFIA proposals that involve GREAT observations, the GREAT PI may designate up to 3 co-authors for the first publication. After proposal selection, GOs should work with the assigned SMO support scientist to develop the observation details during the Phase II process.

3.2.1. EXES supported configurations in Cycle 8

EXES observations are defined by the observing modes, the spectroscopic configuration, and the central wavelength. The following EXES modes are available for Cycle 8:

Observing modes:

1. Nod mode
 - On-slit nod: Source moved between two points along slit for sky subtraction
 - Off-slit nod: Source moved off slit for sky subtraction
2. Map mode
 - Stepped maps with sky subtraction using edge of map or separate sky observation

Spectroscopic Configurations:

1. High-Medium
 - Echelon plus Echelle grating at angles 35-65°
2. High-low
 - Echelon plus Echelle grating at angles 10-25°
3. Medium (long-slit)
 - Echelle grating alone at angles 35-65°
4. Low (long-slit)
 - Echelle grating alone at angles 10-25°

Map mode is available for all spectroscopic configurations. For the HIGH_MEDIUM configuration, on-slit nodding is only available if the slit is longer than about four times the FWHM of the PSF (see the SOFIA Observer’s Handbook for details). Slit lengths in this mode are a strong function of wavelength and grating angle, and users must consult the online exposure time calculator tool to determine if on-slit nodding is possible. The tool also provides information about expected resolving power and wavelength coverage for the selected instrument configuration.

EXES Configuration summary (See Observer’s Handbook for details):

Configurations	Wavelength (μm)	Slit	Max. Resolving Power
High-medium	4.5 – 28.3	(1.4-3.2)''x(4-40)''	100,000
High-low	4.5 – 28.3	(1.4-3.2)''x(<12)''	100,000
Medium	4.5 – 28.3	(1.4-3.2)''x(25-180)''	20,000
Low	4.5 – 28.3	(1.4-3.2)''x(25-180)''	4,000

For the high-resolution modes, there is non-continuous spectral coverage for $\lambda > 19 \mu\text{m}$, but the central wavelength can be tuned so that lines of interest do not fall in the gaps (see the SOFIA Observer’s Handbook for details).

The LOW configuration has been found to suffer from saturation from the background causing instrument persistence issues. There are work-arounds that allow the use of the LOW mode, by reducing the instrument sensitivity, and the instrument team are conducting further tests aimed at mitigating the issue. The current work-arounds require extra overheads to prepare for and to recover from, thus GOs interested in LOW mode observations must contact the instrument team ready to discuss their goals and options.

Proposers should use the information on the SOFIA website and the EXES exposure time calculator accessible through SITE to evaluate their proposed observation parameters.

3.2.2. FIFI-LS supported configurations in Cycle 8

FIFI-LS has two independently settable Littrow spectrometers with $R = 500 - 2000$ that cover the spectral ranges 51 – 120 μm, and 115 – 203 μm, respectively. The spectrometers

are fed by one of two dichroics enabling simultaneous observations of the same target at two wavelengths (see the Observer's Handbook for details). FIFI-LS observation configurations for Phase I require specification of the integration time, center wavelength and width of the proposed spectra for each of the two spectrometers, and an observing mode.

Observing modes:

1. Symmetric Chop mode: This is a nod-match-chop mode suitable for not too extended sources (smaller than the chop throw). For such sources this is the most efficient observing mode.
2. Asymmetric Chop mode: This mode is suitable for extended sources or crowded regions, where symmetric chopping is not possible.
3. Bright Object mode: This mode is optimized for very bright sources, where the total observing time is dominated by the telescope moves. It employs an asymmetric chop.
4. Spectral Scan mode: This mode allows the use of FIFI-LS to observe broader spectral features like solid-state features, by consecutively observing adjacent wavelength settings. This mode is especially susceptible to e.g. time variable observing conditions. Potential proposers are strongly encouraged to contact the FIFI-LS Instrument Scientist, via the SOFIA help desk, during proposal preparation.

All modes allow mapping.

Please see the SOFIA Observer's Handbook for further details of observing modes and instrument capabilities.

3.2.3. FORCAST Supported Configurations in Cycle 8

The FORCAST imaging configurations require specification of the observing mode and filter. FORCAST spectroscopy configurations require specification of observing mode and grism. The following configurations are available for Cycle 8:

IMAGING

Observing modes:

1. Two position chop and nod (C2N), which is implemented as Nod-Match-Chop
2. Two position large-amplitude chop (2-7 arcmin) with large nod offsets (C2NC2)

Filters:

The full complement of filters available for the FORCAST Short Wavelength Camera (SWC; listed below) exceeds the number of available filter wheel slots. A nominal filter

set has been selected for Cycle 8. Depending on the proposal requests, this nominal set may be revised prior to the start of the cycle. If required, the SOFIA Project will consider one filter swap during the duration of Cycle 8. *Proposals requesting any of the non-nominal SWC filters should, in addition to justifying their filter preference, discuss the impact on the proposed science if only the "nominal" filter set is available.*

For the Short Wavelength Camera (SWC) the nominal filter set for Cycle 8 is:
5.6, 6.4, 7.7, 8.8, 11.1, N' (broadband), 19.7, 25.3 μm

Additional, potentially available, filters for the SWC are:
5.4, 6.6, 11.3, 11.8 μm

For the Long Wavelength Camera (LWC):
31.5, 33.6, 34.8, 37.1 μm

Dichroic:

For Cycle 8, FORCAST can be used in a single channel configuration or dual channel configuration. In dual channel configuration, a dichroic is used to split the incident light towards the short and long wavelength arrays simultaneously. Any short wavelength filter can be used at the same time as any of the long wavelength filters. However, there is significant degradation of throughput for short wavelength filters less than 11 μm and greater than 30 μm in dual-channel configuration; this information is built into the sensitivity estimator (SITE).

Mosaicking:

The FORCAST pipeline now supports mosaicking of imaging observations to form Level 4 data products covering a larger area than a single observation.

SPECTROSCOPY

Observing modes:

1. Two position chop and nod (C2N), which is implemented as Nod-Match-Chop
2. Two position large-amplitude chop (2-7 arcmin) with large nod offsets (NXCAC)
3. SLITSCAN (A non-zero Map Area must be given) Nod-Match-Chop while stepping slit across a source (SLITSCAN)

Due to their unexpectedly low throughput, the FORCAST cross-dispersed grisms are not offered in Cycle 8. Because long wavelength calibration is limited for the G329 grism using the narrow slit, this mode is not offered. Proposers should consider the capabilities of the EXES low-resolution mode as an alternative way of doing such observations. (Sec 3.2.1)

An exposure time estimator tool is available on the Cycle 8 web page.

Grisms and Slits:

Grism	Wavelength (μm)	Slit	Resolving Power ¹⁴
Long Slit Spectroscopy in the Short Wavelength Camera			
FOR_G063	4.9-8.0	2.4" x 191"	180
		4.7" x 191"	120
FOR_G111	8.4-13.7	2.4" x 191"	300
		4.7" x 191"	130
Long Slit Spectroscopy in the Long Wavelength Camera			
FOR_G227	17.6-27.7	2.4" x 191"	140
		4.7" x 191"	70
FOR_G329	28.7-37.1	2.4" x 191"	Not Offered
		4.7" x 191"	110

Dichroic:

For Cycle 8, all FORCAST spectroscopic observations will be done using the single channel configuration.

3.2.4. FPI+ supported configurations in Cycle 8

The Focal Plane Imager (FPI+) is the primary tracking camera for the SOFIA telescope. The imager uses a 1024x1024 pixel EMCCD sensor with an 8.7'x8.7' field of view and 0.51 arcsec pixels. The wavelength range of this visual light instrument is 360 nm to 1100 nm.

Its permanent installation on the SOFIA telescope allows for observing without installation overheads. Individual flight legs can be planned for the FPI+ and can be performed with any other science instrument installed on the telescope SI flange. The three observing modes offered in Cycle 8 differ in sensor readout rate and the ability to use the FPI+ for telescope tracking in parallel to acquiring science data.

Observing modes:

FPI_TRACK_SLOW_STARE

- FPI_TRACK_MEDIUM_STARE
- FAST_STARE

Filters:

- Filter carousel 1: u', g', r', i', z' (Sloan Digital Sky Survey) or OPEN
- Filter carousel 2: ND1 (OD=4.0), ND2 (OD=2.6), ND3 (OD=1.3), Schott RG1000 "Daylight" or OPEN

Six spectral filters are available within the FPI+ wavelength range. These are five Sloan Digital Sky Survey filters u' g' r' i' z' and a Schott RG1000 near infrared cut on filter. Additionally, three neutral density filters can be used to attenuate bright stars. The ND

¹⁴ The effective resolving powers (R) for the wide slit are variable depending on the in-flight image quality.

filters are required for the tracking function of the FPI+ and the optical densities are chosen in a way that stars within the brightness range of $0 < V \text{ mag} < 16$ can be imaged with an exposure time of 1 second. The “daylight” filter is also a requirement for telescope tracking to be able to acquire bright guide stars in twilight. A blocked position in the filter wheel can be used for calibration measurements (e.g. dark frames, bias frames).

Frame rates:

The FPI+ can be operated at high readout rates and achieves high imaging frame rates. The table below summarizes the highest temporal resolutions for acquiring full frames in the three observing modes. When no tracking with the FPI+ is required and sub-frames are selected, the frame rates can increase to a few hundred frames per second.

FPI+ frame rates in frames per second for the acquisition of full frames:

Pixel Binning	FAST_STARE	MEDIUM_STARE	SLOW_STARE
1x1	8.9 fps	3.8 fps	0.9 fps
2x2	17.5 fps	6.9 fps	1.7 fps
4x4	33.6 fps	11.0 fps	3.2 fps

3.2.5. GREAT supported configurations in Cycle 8

GREAT is a dual [array] receiver instrument, whereby the two receivers are operated simultaneously and each receiver (front end) can be tuned separately. GREAT observation configurations consist of observing modes, receiver band, and backend selections. In Cycle 8, the two seven-beam upGREAT array receivers are offered: the Low-Frequency Array (2x7 pixels in the LFA; 1.9 THz) and the High-Frequency Array (1x7 pixel HFA; 4.7 THz). The 4GREAT receiver system with 4 simultaneous bands is also offered.

The usable instantaneous bandwidth is channel-dependent. For the LFA and HFA arrays the noise roll-off with intermediate frequency, intrinsic to HEB detectors, limits the usable 3-dB noise bandwidth to typically 3.5 GHz. Each front-end is connected to a digital FFT spectrometer providing 4.0 GHz of bandwidth with 283 kHz spectral resolution (equivalent noise bandwidth).

The upGREAT Arrays (LFA and HFA) are 7-beam heterodyne arrays arranged in a hexagonal pattern with a central beam. The spacing between the beams is approximately 2 beam widths. The on-the-fly mapping efficiency using the arrays is approximately an order of magnitude improved over the single pixel configuration (see Risacher et al. 2016, A&A 595, 34 (<https://www.aanda.org/articles/aa/abs/2016/11/aa29045-16/aa29045-16.html>) for further details).

The following are available for Cycle 8:

Receiver bands:

upGREAT Low Frequency Array (LFA): A 7-pixel, dual-polarization, array covering 1.83 – 2.07 THz (144.8 – 163.8 μm). The frequency range 2.006 – 2.07 THz (144.8 – 149.4 μm), including the [O I] line at 2.060 THz (145 μm), is offered on a ‘best effort’ basis due to limited availability of local oscillators that work at these frequencies. The array has seven spatial pixels with dual polarizations for each pixel. The tuning ranges for the two polarizations are slightly offset, with one covering 1.83 – 1.96 THz (153.0 – 163.8 μm) and the other 1.88 – 2.07 THz (144.8 – 159.5 μm). At the low- and high-frequency ends (<1.88 THz and >1.96 THz), only 7 pixels at a single polarization is available. In this case it may be possible to tune the other polarization to a different frequency within its range but this will require prior discussion with the instrument team.

upGREAT High Frequency Array (HFA): A 7-pixel array covering the [O I] line at 63 μm . Because of the limited tuning range of the Quantum Cascade Laser local oscillator, only the frequency range +3/-1 GHz around the 4744.77749 GHz [O I] line will be available. Note that the atmosphere becomes opaque for $v > 100$ km/s.

4GREAT: All four bands of the 4GREAT receiver are offered. For Band 3 the available tuning ranges are 1.24 – 1.39 THz (215.7 – 241.8 μm) and 1.43 – 1.50 THz (199.9 – 209.6 μm). For Band 4 the tuning range available is 2.49 – 2.59 THz (115.7 – 120.4 μm), covering the OH ground-state transition. Band 1 (0.49 – 0.635 THz; 472.1 – 611.8 μm) and Band 2 (0.890 – 1.100 THz; 272.5 – 336.8 μm) of 4GREAT are offered as shared risk observations. **Observers requesting 4GREAT should clearly specify in the proposal which 4GREAT frequencies are essential for their science and which are less important.**

Receiver Combinations:

For Cycle 8 the two available receiver combinations will be:

- LFA in parallel with HFA
- 4GREAT in parallel with HFA.

Depending on the results of the Call for Proposals, not all combinations may be executed.

Observing modes:

1. Single pointing - position switching (PSW)
2. Single pointing - beam switching (BSW), chopping with the secondary
3. On-the-fly mapping in PSW or BSW mode (OTFMAP_PSW/BSW)
4. Raster mapping in PSW or BSW mode (RASTERMAP_PSW/BSW)

Note: the stability of a heterodyne instrument is characterized partially by its Allan Variance time. This is different for the various technologies used (details are given in the Observer’s Handbook)

Backends:

Fast Fourier Transform Spectrometer: 4 GHz bandwidth with 0.283 MHz ENB.

3.2.6. HAWC+ supported configurations in Cycle 8

HAWC+ observation configurations consist of observing modes and filter selections in both Total Intensity and Polarization modes. The following are available for Cycle 8:

TOTAL INTENSITY

Observing modes:

1. Two position chop and nod (C2N) implemented as Nod-Match-Chop (NMC).
2. On-the-fly mapping (OTF).

Filters:

Four filters are available with central wavelengths (bandwidths) as follows –53 (9), 89 (17), 154 (34), 214 (44) μm . A fifth filter at 63 μm is offered for shared-risk proposals in this Call.

Note: The 63 μm band of HAWC+ is saturated by background in most cases. An effort is underway to address this by the addition of a cold-stop to the filter. Observations with the 63 μm band are solicited though this call as *shared risk* proposals and should include a *strong* science case for why the use of this band is necessary. Should it not be possible to observe with the 63 μm band in Cycle 8, these proposals will not be executed.

POLARIZATION

Observing modes:

1. Two position chop and nod (C2N) implemented as Nod-Match-Chop (NMC).
2. **SCANPOL – OTF map with polarization capability. (Offered as Shared Risk in Cycle 8.)**

For each wavelength filter a corresponding half-wave plate (HWP) is used. The filter is matched to the HWP.

3.3. Flight Planning & Target Prioritization

Flight planning is not part of the proposal process. However, source selection with the constraints of an airborne observatory in mind can increase the ability of a program to be scheduled. It may be expected that certain regions of the sky, such as the inner Galactic Plane, and Orion will be oversubscribed. These targets force SOFIA to fly westward when observing out of Palmdale, since they are towards the south and the telescope looks out on the port (left-hand) side of the aircraft). As regular operations require SOFIA to return to Palmdale at the end of each flight, targets in the northern half of the sky will be required for roughly the same amount of time as these southern regions. (Note that southern and northern half of the sky here does not refer to south and north of the celestial equator but to sources culminating south or north of the local zenith).

The ranking by the peer review panel and selection by the SMO Director will result in a prioritized target pool, which will be provided to the SMO staff. The SMO will then produce flight plans in consultation with the instrument teams and proposal PIs. The effort will be carried out under the scientific direction of the SMO Director.

3.4. Proposer Participation in Observations

The SOFIA Program encourages GOs to participate in the flights executing their observations. While no dedicated financial support for such activities is available, the GO may use part of their allocated grant to cover associated expenses. Note, however, that observations from many different programs are usually executed on any given flight. This has several impacts on GO in-flight participation: i) Only a limited number of observations in the GOs program are likely to be executed on any given flight. ii) While optimizations of a given observation are possible in-flight, the ability to interactively modify a program is limited to the specific observation. Changes that would affect the remainder of the flight plan (e.g. target changes), or that could cause conflicts with other accepted programs (such as filter settings not originally awarded to the current program), will generally not be allowed. iii) With the many different required and requested flight crew complements, the number of "Astronomer seats" on any given flight is limited. For a given flight, if the number of GOs requesting seats exceeds the number available, then the SMO Director will decide on which GOs will be invited on that flight.

3.5. Data Processing, Calibration and Distribution

3.5.1 Data Processing, Archiving and Distribution

Processing and distribution of SOFIA data is accomplished through the SOFIA Data Cycle System (<https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/>). The SMO is responsible for the processing of data obtained by Facility-Class Science Instruments. The instrument development teams will be responsible for the data reduction for Principal Investigator Class Instruments.

All scientifically meaningful data obtained during the Cycle 8 Phase will be made available to observers via the SOFIA Science Archive. All data will be archived as Level 1 data (raw). Where appropriate, Level 2 (corrected for instrumental and atmospheric effects), Level 3 (flux calibrated), and, if available, Level 4 (enhanced) will also be archived.

At present, the primary SOFIA data archive is the DCS Science Archive (<https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/dataRetrieval/SearchScienceArchiveInfoBasic.jsp>). However, SOFIA is beginning to transition to using the Infrared Science Archive (IRSA) hosted by the Infrared Processing & Analysis Center (IPAC) as its primary data archive. The first release of the SOFIA Archive at IRSA includes FIFI-LS, FORCAST, and GREAT data from Cycle 4 and Cycle 5, and is currently accessible online. By the end of 2019, the second archive release will expand the database to include SOFIA data from all instruments and all cycles.

3.5.2 Calibration

The programmatically required photometric calibration accuracy for SOFIA observations is 20%. Cycle 8 proposals for which this calibration level is adequate do not need to include time for calibration observations, with the exceptions noted below. Proposers wishing to implement specific calibration strategies may request to do so, but must identify the specific calibration target observations to accomplish these goals and explicitly request the observing time required. The calibration strategies and targets will be evaluated in the technical and science reviews, and if recommended by the review process will be treated as part of the proposal.

The required calibration accuracy is routinely achieved or exceeded in the standard observing modes for all SOFIA science instrument observations, except in spectral regions of strong telluric interference. The modes offered here as shared risk (FORCAST slit-scan mode; HAWC+ 63 μm observations and scanning-polarimetry mode) are expected to meet the 20% requirement, but as part of the shared risk constraints, cannot be guaranteed to do so.

The EXES temperature-controlled blackbody source provides flux calibration to better than 20%. Corrections for the impact of Earth's atmosphere using the blackbody are accurate in wavelength regions where the atmospheric transmission is >0.50 and is spectrally smooth over the region of interest. Projects needing additional telluric calibration should include such requests in the Phase I proposal. Because of the difficulty of scheduling a given telluric calibrator with the science target in a given flight, the specific calibrator will need to be chosen at the time of flight planning in consultation between the program PI, the instrument PI and the SMO support scientist. For such observations, a separate observation entry should be entered via USPOT with name "Cal_target", where "target" is the name of the associate science target (e.g. "IRC+10216" and "Cal_IRC+10216"), and given the coordinates RA:12:00:00, Dec:+90:00:00. The observing request for such a telluric standard observation will depend on the mode and wavelength observed. For specific questions, please contact the SMO.

Further information on the calibration status of the SOFIA instruments can be found in the Observer's Handbook and the SOFIA website.

4. Outreach

4.1 Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program

The NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA) program, run by the SETI institute is planned to continue during Cycle 8. However, due to the reorganization of NASA's education activities, individual NASA missions, including SOFIA, no longer have separate education programs. Hence, no funding for such activities will be available through the Cycle 8 process. Voluntary participation in the NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors

program is encouraged. GOs with programs executing during Airborne Astronomy Ambassador flight weeks may be contacted by the AAA program managers in regards to helping explain their experiments and provide other background information to the teacher participants.

Further information about the AAA program can be found on the SETI Institute's website (<https://www.seti.org/aaa>). Specific questions can be addressed to the SOFIA Education Director, Dr. Dana Backman (dbackman@seti.org).

4.2 News Releases and Presentations

SOFIA captures the imagination and attention of media and the public. To continue this successful publicity, SOFIA observers have a responsibility to share potentially newsworthy results with the public. NASA and DLR have an interest in helping them reach a larger audience and gain a bigger impact. Specifically, NASA and DLR retain the right to be the initial organizations to issue news releases and web feature stories regarding SOFIA results. Therefore, if a GO believes that there is a possibility that new results could be of interest to a wide public audience, the PI should contact the SOFIA Public Affairs Officer Nicholas Veronico (nicholas.a.veronico@nasa.gov) who will evaluate the news value of the results, communicate with NASA and DLR Headquarters, and then work with the GOs on the most suitable course of action. Releasing results without coordinating with the program or agency will prevent the result from being included in a subsequent NASA and/or DLR news release.

NASA and the DLR will jointly issue news releases associated with SOFIA observations during Cycle 8. The U.S. SOFIA Public Affairs officer and the German/DSI Public Affairs counterpart will coordinate the news release process. Other relevant news releases by participating organizations (including PI institutions) should be coordinated with the SOFIA program, NASA and DLR. Other presentation material based on the Cycle 8 observations can be generated by any member of the proposal team and will be considered part of the team's collective set of material. Any member of the team may use these materials (e.g., in public science talks or conference proceedings).

4.3 Internal NASA Presentations

Noteworthy SOFIA results are of great interest to NASA. GOs are encouraged to support internal presentations to SOFIA management, with the understanding that results will be made public only with the agreement of the GO. GOs will also be encouraged to make early results available in more public venues such as the SOFIA website and presentations.

5. Contacts and Further Information

For further information about the Cycle 8 Call for Proposal or help in preparing proposals, please see the "Information for Researchers" (<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science>) section of the SOFIA website, or contact the SOFIA help desk at sofia_help@sofia.usra.edu.



Questions about the SOFIA Guest Observer program can be directed to the SOFIA User Support lead Dr. Randolph Klein (rklein@sofia.usra.edu), or the Associate Director for Science Operations, Dr. B-G Andersson (bg@sofia.usra.edu).

For further information about the SOFIA Science project, please contact the above, the Science Mission Operations Director, Dr. Harold Yorke (hyorke@sofia.usra.edu), or his deputy, Dr. Bernhard Schulz (bschulz@dsi.uni-stuttgart.de).

Note:

Some of the following lists of ROCs contain entries for both observations intended to be executed in Cycle 8, and observations already performed by the instrument teams as part of their Guaranteed Time Observation (GTO) programs. For detailed information about completeness of the GTO observation, please follow the Duplication Checking procedure laid out in Sec. 3 of the USPOT Manual at <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/uspot-manual>), or contact the SOFIA help desk (sofia_help@sofia.usra.edu).

Appendix A1 - GREAT Cycle 8 Reserved Observations Catalog (ROC)

Science	Object Name	RA	DEC	4G	LFA	HFA	area	Time
		(2000)	(2000)		[THz]		arcmin	[hr]
PP disks	HD100546	11:33:25.4	-70:11:41.2		all lines		0.3	0.5
	HD97048	11:08:03.3	-77:39:17.4		all lines		0.3	0.5
Star formation cores	SgrB2(M)(N)	17:47:20.4	-28:23:07.0	all	#2	OI	2	2.0
	NGC6334I	17:20:53.3	-35:47:01.5	#1	#2	OI	5	3.0
	W33A	18:14:39.4	-17:52:00.0	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	G10.62	18 10 28.7	-19 55 50.0	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	G10.47	18 08 38.2	-19 51 50.0	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	G34.26	18 53 18.6	01 14 58.0	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	G327.3	15 53 08.5	-54 37 05.1	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	G330.95	16 09 53.0	-51 54 55.0	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	G351.58	17 25 25.0	-36 12 45.3	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	W51C	19:22:54.3	+14:12:40.0	CO	CO/CII	OI	6	3.0
Outflow studies	IRAS05358+3543	05:39:13.1	+35:45:50.0	#1	#2	OI	1	0.5
	BHR71	12:01:36.3	-65:08:53.0	#1	#2	OI	2	1.0
	HH54	12:55:50.3	-76:56:23.0	#1	#2	OI	2	1.0
	IRAS17233-3606	17:26:42.5	-36:09:18.0	#1	#2	OI	1	1.5
		IRAS20126+4104	20:14:25.1	+41:13:32.0	#1	#2	OI	1
(P)PNe	CRL618	04:42:53.6	+36:06:53	#1	CO/CII	OI	0.5	1.0
	OH231.8+4.2	07:42:16.8	-14:42:52.1	#1	CO/CII	OI	0.5	1.0
	BD+30 3639	19:34:45.2	+30:30:58.8	#1	CO/CII	OI	0.5	1.0
	NGC6572	18:12:06.3	+06:51:13.0	#1	CO/CII	OI	0.5	1.0
	M2-9	17:05:37.8	-10:08:32.4	#1	CO/CII	OI	0.5	1.0
		CRL2688	21:02:18.7	+36:41:37.8	#1	CO/CII	OI	0.5
	IRAS21282+5050	21:29:58.4	+51:04:00.3	#1	CO/CII	OI	0.5	1.0
Galactic PDRs	IC1396	21:40:42.3	+58:16:10.0	CI/CO	CII/OI	OI	60	3.0
	NGC3603	11 15 15.1	-61 17 35.0	#1	CII/OI	OI	4	2.0

	NGC2024	05 41 45.2	-01 55 45.0		CII/OI	OI	1	2.0
	NGC7023	21 01 32.4	+68 10 25.0		CII/OI	OI	1	1.0
LMC/SMC PDRs	N159	05 39 51.1	-69 45 12.9		OI/ CII	OI	1	1
	N160	00 39 40.3	-69 39 01.1		OI/ CII	OI	1	1
	30Dor	05 39 03.0	-69 07 36.0		OI/ CII	OI	1	1
Galactic Center	CMZ	17:45:39.9	-29:00:28.2	#1	CII	OI	70 ⁽¹⁾	20
	G1.6	17:49:18.6	-27:33:54.0	#1	CII	OI	15	3.0
	SgrA	17:45:39.9	-29:00:28.2	all		OI	4	3.0
solar system	Saturn, Jupiter				HCl, OI, CH4		-	1.0
	Mars	HDO, (H ₂ ¹⁶ O), H ₂ ¹⁸ O		all	OI	OI	-	0.7
	Wirtanen			all	all	OI	-	3.0
nearby nuclei	Cen-A	13:25:27.6	-43:01:08.9	#1	CH/OI	OI		2.0
	NGC4945	13:05:27.5	-49:28:05.6	all bands			1	1.5
MHD shocks	IC443	06:17:42.5	+22:21:30.0	all bands			40	2.0
	W28F	18:01:52.3	-23:19:25.0	all bands			2	1.0
	3C391	18:49:22.3	-00:57:22.0	all bands			2	1.0
	W44 E/F	18:56:28.4	+01:29:55.0	all bands			2	1.0

Times given in the last column are total integration times (on and off source), but no overheads due to calibration/facility inefficiencies have been added. Min map size of observation is one arcmin (though in most cases this will be the central beam only). In most targets “CO” refers to the J–transition accessible, including selected isotopologues. [CII] does include studies of the ¹³C isotopologue.

Frequency (THz)	Species
set-up #1 (in 4GREAT):	[CI], CO, OH
set-up #2 (in LFA):	NH ₃ , OH, [CII], CO, OI

⁽¹⁾ Galactic Center Survey between SgrC and SgrB, 0.3 deg along galactic plane

Appendix A2 – FIFI-LS Cycle 8 Reserved Observations Catalog (ROC)

Target	RA (J2000)	DEC (J2000)	Extent (arcmin)	Lines B λ in μm	Lines R λ in μm	Time (h)
W43-main	18:47:40.0	-01:57:00.0	5 x 5	[OIII] λ 52 [OIII] λ 88 OH λ 79	[OI] λ 145 [CII] λ 157 CO (14-13) λ 186	1
W40 – IRS5	18:31:14.82 18:31:21	-02:03:49.8 -2:06:51	2 x 2 2 x 1	[OI] λ 63 [OIII] λ 88	[CII] λ 157 [OI] λ 145 CO (16-15) λ 163	1
M82	09:55:52.2	69:40:47	2x4	[OIII] λ 88	[CII] λ 157	1.5
M83	13:37:00.9	-29:51:57	3 x 3	[OIII] λ 88 [OI] λ 63	[CII] λ 157 CO(14-13) λ 186	2
NGC5253	13:39:55.96	-31:38:24.4	1x1	[OIII] λ 52 [NIII] λ 57	[OI] λ 145 [CII] λ 157	3
NC253	00:47:33	-25:17:18	2x2	[OI] λ 63 [OIII] λ 52	[OI] λ 145 [CII] λ 157	2
N159 E&W LMC	05:40:19 05:39:36	-69:44:52 -69:46:00	2 x 2 each	[OIII] λ 52 [NIII] λ 57	[OI] λ 145 [CII] λ 157	1
N11 LMC	04:56:51.4	-66:24:44	3X3	[OIII] λ 52 [OI] λ 63	[CII] λ 157 [OI] λ 145	1
N44 LMC	05:22:06.9	-67:56:46	3X3	[OIII] λ 52 [OI] λ 63	[CII] λ 157 [OI] λ 145	1
N66 SMC	00:59:27.4	-72:10:11	3X3	[OIII] λ 52 [OI] λ 63	[CII] λ 157 [OI] λ 145	1
NGC3627	11:20:15.03	12:59:28.64	3x3	[OI] λ 63	[CII] λ 157	2
NGC4321	12:22:54.90	15:49:20.57	3x3	[OI] λ 63	[CII] λ 157	3
NGC4254	12:18:49.63	14:24:59.36	3x3	[OI] λ 63	[CII] λ 157	3
CND	17:45:40	-29:00:28	4x4	[OIII] λ 52 [NIII] λ 57	CO [CII] λ 157	3

Times given in the last column are total observation times including standard overheads. Rest wavelengths are given for the identified spectral lines, not observing wavelengths on the source.

Appendix B - Standard Target Names

Target names provide unique designations for the targets in the proposal. These names will also be used to designate targets in the SOFIA Science Archive. Prospective proposers and archival researchers also use these names to simplify queries of whether SOFIA has previously observed a particular object. The archives will be most useful if consistent naming conventions are used, and duplication checking is better facilitated if standard names are utilized to the greatest extent possible. These guidelines are based on drafts generated by the NASA/JWST program office and as such are intended to provide a more uniform approach to proposal and archival target names for infrared observers on NASA missions.

The following conventions should be followed in naming targets:

- A new target name must be defined for each (celestial) target. For example, for several pointings within a galaxy, one might define target names such as NGC4486-NUC, NGC4486-JET, NGC4486-POS1, and NGC4486-POS2.
- Only letters, numerals, hyphens, periods (.), and + or – are allowed in target names; other punctuation is not permitted (e.g., BARNARDS-STAR is valid, but BARNARD’S-STAR is not). Greek letters must be spelled out (e.g., ALPHA-ORI).
- Degree signs must be represented by an upper-case “D” (e.g., CD-42°14462 becomes CD-42D14462).

B1.1 Catalog Name

If your target is in a well-known catalog (e.g. SDSS, NGC, PG), then use that catalog designation for the target name. This is the name your object will have in the SOFIA Archive, so please try to select the most common name for the target, to make it easier for archive researchers to find your target and for proposers and SOFIA staff to perform efficient target duplication checks. If you are unsure whether your target has an established catalog name, please perform a coordinate search in SIMBAD and/or NED. If your proposed target is coincident with an existing catalog target, please consider using the existing catalog target. For uncataloged targets, see Section B1.2.

B1.2 Uncataloged Targets

For the **Standard Target Name**, objects that have not been cataloged or named must be assigned one of the following designations:

1. Isolated objects must be designated by a code name (the allowed codes are STAR, NEB, GAL, STAR-CLUS, GAL-CLUS, QSO, SKY, FIELD, and OBJ), followed by a hyphen and the object’s J2000 equatorial coordinates, if possible, rounded to

- seconds of time and seconds of arc (e.g., for a star at J2000 coordinates RA: 1H 34M 28S, DEC: -15D 31' 38", the designation would be STAR-013428-153138).
2. Uncataloged objects within star clusters, nebulae, or galaxies must be designated by the name of the parent body followed by a hyphen and the rounded J2000 coordinates, if possible, of the object (e.g., for a target within NGC 224 with J2000 coordinates RA: 0H 40M 12S, DEC: +40D 58' 48", the designation would be NGC224-004012+405848).
 3. Positions within nebulae or galaxies may also be designated by the name of the parent object followed by a hyphen and a qualifier. The qualifier should be brief, but informative (e.g., the jet in NGC 4486 could be designated NGC4486-JET). Other examples are: NGC5139-ROA24, LMC-R136A, ABELL30-CENTRAL-STAR, NGC205-NUC.

Appendix C – SOFIA Bibliographic Resources

A list of refereed SOFIA related publications can be found at <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/publications/sofia-publications/>.

In addition, significant amounts of SOFIA science have been presented at the “The Local Truth: Star Formation and Feedback in the SOFIA Era”, at the Asilomar Conference Ground in October 2016, and at the “Spectroscopy with SOFIA: New Results & Future Opportunities” conferences at Ringberg castle in March 2017 and February 2019. Most of the presentations for the three meetings can be found on-line at

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/conference/local-truth-star-formation-and-feedback-sofia-era-celebrating-50-years-airborne-5>,

<https://events.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/indico/event/16/timetable/?ttLyt=room#20170306.detailed>, and

<https://events.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/indico/event/87/timetable/?ttLyt=room#20190121.detailed>, respectively.

(For the Ringberg conferences, presentation files can be accessed by clicking on a presentation in the timeline and selecting the “Material” option in the pop-up window)

These science cases illustrate the breadth of potential SOFIA capabilities. An overview of SOFIA is presented in Young et al. 2012, ApJ, 749, L17: “Early Science with SOFIA, the Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy”

(<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/2041-8205/749/2/L17/meta>) and in Temi et al. 2014, ApJS, 212, 24: “The SOFIA Observatory at the Start of Routine Science Operations: Mission Capabilities and Performance” (<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0067-0049/212/2/24/meta>).

A special, open access issue of the Journal of Astronomical Instrumentation on SOFIA and its instruments was published in December 2018. It can be found online at <https://www.worldscientific.com/toc/jai/07/04>.

A focus issue of the Astrophysical Journal highlighting SOFIA science was published in January 2019. It can be found online at

https://iopscience.iop.org/journal/2041-8205/page/Focus_on_SOFIA.