

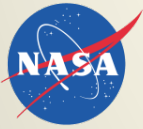
New Science Thematic Approaches: What we can introduce in Cycle 6?

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Cycle 6 Plan



- Preliminary definition (Approved by SMO Dir, PM, PS on 2016 Dec 6)
 - Duration: Feb 2 2018 – Jan 31 2019
 - CfP: Release May 1, 2017; Update June 5, 2017
 - Proposal: Deadline June 20, 2017, US TAC Week of Aug 14, DE TAC [early Sept]
 - Selection announcement October 1
 - Offer all Generation 1 & 2 instruments, except FLITECAM and HIPO
 - FLITECAM available through DDT proposals for the duration of Cy 5
 - One Southern Deployment, with 2 instruments
- MoU initial drafts
 - Document SI availability, modes, data, other agreements
 - GREAT: concern about funding



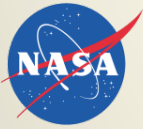


What can we improve in Cycle 4/5?



- Currently, chances of getting an accepted proposal actually observed is ~70%
 - Exceptions to ~70% rule
 - 1: HAWC+ due to instrument difficulties
 - 2: upGREAT due to NZ engine issue
 - Certain areas of the sky are oversubscribed; this does not figure in the TAC scores
- Many lost flights due to airplane issues & HAWC+ issues
 - Too few opportunities to recover from lost flights
 - HAWC+ had additional (unplanned) commissioning flights
- Because of USRA contract end (February 28, 2017), getting funds to GIs was complicated





What went right in Cycle 4/5?



- Improved funding of Guest Investigators
 - ~\$10k per hour instead of \$3k per hour
 - \$7k up front to prepare AORs
- Added contingency flights in cycle 5 (~15% instead of 7%) to improve probability of completing observations
- Many proposals relating to extragalactic observations
 - TAC had an extragalactic panel for first time
- HAWC+ posed to perform unique observations, albeit with reduced capabilities
 - ADR holding time shorter than envisioned
 - Original sensitivity estimates were too optimistic
- Mini-deployments for special observations (e.g. Triton)



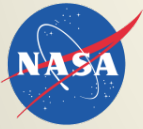


Preparing for Cycle 6 Call



- Continue improved funding of Guest Investigators
 - ~\$10k per hour instead of \$3k per hour
 - \$7k up front to prepare AORs
- In addition to contingency flights (~17%), rethink flight cadence to improve probability of completing observations
- Redesign New Zealand deployment strategy
- Added capabilities:
 - 4GREAT (pending agreement by GREAT PI)
 - Includes 2 new low-frequency bands, and the M channel which had not been offered in Cycle 5

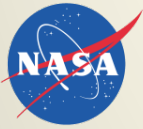




Improving Availability of SOFIA



- Use of SOFIA has to be made as straightforward as possible
- E.g. SSPOT for proposal and observation preparations
- Level 3 data delivered on a short time scale
 - 15 working days for SOFIA facility instruments with few exceptions
 - 22 working days for EXES
 - 60 working days for upGREAT
- Nevertheless, how do we attract younger observers?
 - No “SOFIA” fellows. How do we get them?
 - How do we get more graduate and undergraduate students involved in SOFIA?



New Features of SOFIA Program



- Contingent upon USRA successful recompetete for SOFIA contract
 - 1 FTE for Distinguished Visiting Scientist
 - Encourage sabbaticals (few weeks to maximum 2 years)
 - Can be divided up into partial funding for several individuals overlapping in time
 - This allows strategic focus programs
 - Limited USRA funds for students
 - Students from local Mountain View universities can work at SOFIA Science Center
- Additional funding of accepted proposals to allow students to spend time at Palmdale or NASA Ames
- Focus thematic workshops (e.g. Galactic Center)



<http://www.sofia.usra.edu>

