

SOFIA Science Steering Committee Charter

Introduction:

The SOFIA Science Steering Committee (SSSC) is active during development phase. It was originally convened by SOFIA Chief Scientist to provide scientific input across the SOFIA program, but with a focus on the NASA/USRA team. As the program developed it has become clear that the SSSC should expand to include full representation and participation of the DLR/Telescope Assembly Consortium (MAN and KT). Thus we are re-writing slightly the members and mandates of the SSSC. Below is a new charter:

Agenda:

Meeting agendas will be drafted by the Committee Co-chairs with concurrence by the SOFIA Chief Scientist and with input from the USRA team, the Telescope Allocation Committee (TAC), the NASA project office and DLR (Bonn).

Membership:

Members on the SSSC are selected from potential future users of SOFIA, a mix of observers and science instrument developers. At any time there are approximately 10 SSSC members; at least 20% of which are from the German science community. All SOFIA science instrument developers are ex-officio members, if not full members. Membership on the SSSC is for a 3 year term.

Mandates:

- 1) Reviews technical progress on SOFIA, including instrument development, and works with the SOFIA Team on key technical and scientific issues.
- 2) Works with the Chief Scientist on science tradeoffs for SOFIA. All issues with respect to significant scientific tradeoffs, as determined by either the SOFIA Chief Scientist or the NASA Project Scientist, will be brought to the SSSC for consideration.
- 3) Ensures that the standards and specifications for interfaces between instruments, observatory and scientists are modern, appropriate, friendly, effective, and trouble-free.
- 4) Assesses community needs in order to recommend which instruments should be designed, or phased in as facility instruments, and which instruments need to be encouraged as P.I. instruments.
- 5) Weights the costs, cost-savings and science productivity benefits of having common facility equipment and makes appropriate recommendations to the Chief Scientist.
- 6) Motivates the science perspective at the SSMOC by making recommendations for scientific personnel to USRA and to the SOFIA Chief Scientist.
- 7) Recommends standards for design and development of science instruments. Recommends technologies common to multiple science instruments for joint (or non-P.I.) development.
- 8) Recommends use of contingency funds for facility instruments.

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9) Develops archiving standards; considers ways of improving access to archived data; advises on the budget priority of the archiving activity.

10) Coordinates linkages between scientific activities and outreach/education.

Reports to: USRA SOFIA Chief Scientist

Co-Chaired by USRA, SOFIA Project scientist, DLR Telescope scientist

Term of

Appointment: Three years, twice renewable.

Duration: Serves from contract award until the formation of the SOFIA Users Committee.

Frequency of Meetings: Approximately once every third month, with telephonic meetings and conversations probable.

Remuneration: Travel and per diem for the meetings will be determined by the member's affiliation. US science members and ex-officio members will be paid either by NASA or the USRA contract depending on their affiliation. Non NASA employees from the USA (University, private, etc) will be reimbursed by USRA. NASA associated members will be paid by NASA. The German science members will be paid by DLR. Technical support will be paid by USRA and the TAC.

This committee will evolve into the:

SOFIA Users

Committee Active during operations phase, convened by the SOFIA Observatory Director.