



# SOFIA

## Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

NASA's airborne observatory, SOFIA, is a Boeing 747SP fitted with a 20,000 kg, 2.5-meter (100-inch) diameter infrared telescope. The observatory operates at altitudes between 39,000 feet and 45,000 feet (12 and 14 km).

Among many other scientific programs, SOFIA studies:

- Star and planet formation
- Organic compounds in space
- The black hole at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy
- Atmospheres, rings and moons in the outer solar system
- Comets and near-Earth asteroids
- and much more!

SOFIA is a joint project between NASA and the German Aerospace Agency (DLR). Science operations are managed for NASA by the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) and the Deutsches SOFIA Institute (DSI).

Visit us at the SOFIA Science Center Web site:

**[www.sofia.usra.edu](http://www.sofia.usra.edu)**

or at the NASA SOFIA mission page:

**[www.nasa.gov/SOFIA](http://www.nasa.gov/SOFIA)**