

Draft, awaiting signatures

**DATA RIGHTS AND USAGE AGREEMENT FOR THE  
SOFIA SHORT SCIENCE PHASE**

**STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED  
ASTRONOMY (SOFIA)**

**Detailed roles and responsibilities of the final proposal selection are pending negotiation and have been excerpted herein. The outcome of these negotiations are not expected to affect the white paper processing or evaluation.**

## Background

The Short Science observations will be undertaken as a collaborative effort between the Science Instrument teams, the SOFIA Science Center (SSC), and selected members of the astronomical community. Short Science is primarily intended to demonstrate to the astronomical community, various stakeholders, agencies and the general public that SOFIA is ready to perform initial scientific observations, consistent with the constrained observing conditions expected. The goal is not necessarily to acquire observations that will result in refereed publications. To this end, it should be noted that the Short Science observations might not have accompanying calibration data, and therefore might not be (or be able to be) completely or properly “reduced” or calibrated.

## SOFIA Short Science Teams

The Short Science Teams will consist of the FORCAST and GREAT PI teams, respectively, augmented, for the duration of the Short Science observations and analysis, by *ad hoc* members from the SOFIA Science Center staff and from the general astronomical community (1-3 per project). The Science Instrument PIs will be fully responsible for and in charge of each Short Science Team.

Members of the community will be invited with a Dear Colleague Letter to submit brief white papers, focusing on the expertise brought to the team by the submitter and how the submitter can contribute to the Short Science Team's planned observations and analysis. The instrument PIs will review the white papers. The submitted proposals, together with the Instrument PI's review, will be judged and selected by a peer review [...] including representatives from the Short Science instrument teams.

[...]

The selected outside community members will not participate in the actual flights and data acquisition, but will, as appropriate, participate in other activities, such as, planning, data reduction, analysis, and interpretation.

## Observing time

Short Science observations will nominally be performed over a two-week period for each instrument, consisting of flights for instrument check out and calibration and flights for the Short Science projects.

Flight science time for Short Science will not be counted as part of the PI commissioning or Guaranteed Time.

## Data Rights, Archiving and Proprietary Periods

To the extent that it is practical, the data from the Short Science projects shall be made public as soon as possible.

All scientifically meaningful raw data obtained during the Short Science phase must be made available to the Observatory in standard FITS format, with header information and appropriate FITS keywords conforming to the SOFIA FITS keyword dictionary. This delivery does not include documentation or analysis tools. All raw data will be validated by the SSMOC staff and, when appropriate, the Instrument PI, prior to Archive ingestion and will be assigned a 'Data Quality' code. These data will be accessible to the general community after a proprietary period of 3 months. The data release will make clear the limitation on community support by the PI teams during the Early Science period.

Any reduced and calibrated data products, must be made available to all members of the Short Science Team. Such data shall also be delivered to the SOFIA Archive and will be made available to the community 3 months after Archive ingestion.

Approval to deviate from these archiving requirements will be granted by the SOFIA Science and Operations Manager.

#### Publications, Press Releases and Presentational Material

The data acquired during the Short Science phase will be used primarily for generating press releases and presentation material. Such materials will be made available to NASA HQ, the DLR, the Decadal Survey, etc.

Press releases associated with SOFIA observations during Short Science will be jointly released by NASA and the DLR and will require coordination with both NASA and the DLR before release. The SOFIA Science Center E&PO officer and his or her German/DSI E&PO counterpart will coordinate the press release process that will include the observatory Chief Scientist's office, the instrument PIs and their home institution public relations offices, the Science Project office, the SOFIA Program Office, Ames and Dryden Public Affairs offices, the NASA HQ SOFIA program scientist and program executive, the NASA HQ SMD Public Affairs officer, NASA HQ External Affairs, and the DLR. Other relevant press releases by participating organizations (including PI institutions) must be coordinated with NASA and DLR.

Other presentation material based on the Short Science observations can be generated by any member of the Short Science Team and will be considered part of the Team's collective set of material. Any member of the Team may use these materials for the purpose of demonstrating SOFIA's readiness (e.g., in public science talks or conference proceedings)<sup>[13]</sup>.

Any refereed publications that might result from the Short Science observations must be led by the PI of the Science Instrument team and must include the entire Short Science Team.