

# **SOFIA Science Operations and Cycle 1 Proposal Solicitation**

**B-G Andersson**

USRA

SOFIA Science Operations Manager

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## SOFIA Science Operations

- Supports SMO Director
  - Solicitation, logistics and selection (process) of proposals
  - Communications with user community
  - Help Desk and Documentation
  - Instrument support
  - Active Science Center (research, talks, workshops)
- Support Guest Investigators
  - Both US (international) and German communities
  - Generating and ingesting proposals (practical)
  - Developing details of observations
  - Data access
  - (limited) Data analysis support
- About a dozen PhD Astronomers

## SOFIA Proposal Process

- 2 phase proposal process
  - Phase 1: Science Justification; high level technical
  - Phase 2: Detailed observation development
- Separate queues for
  - US (+ international) community
  - German community
  - Both queues supported by the SMO user support and software
- Separate reviews for the two communities
  - US/German target conflicts resolved by SMO Director and Deputy Director after reviews

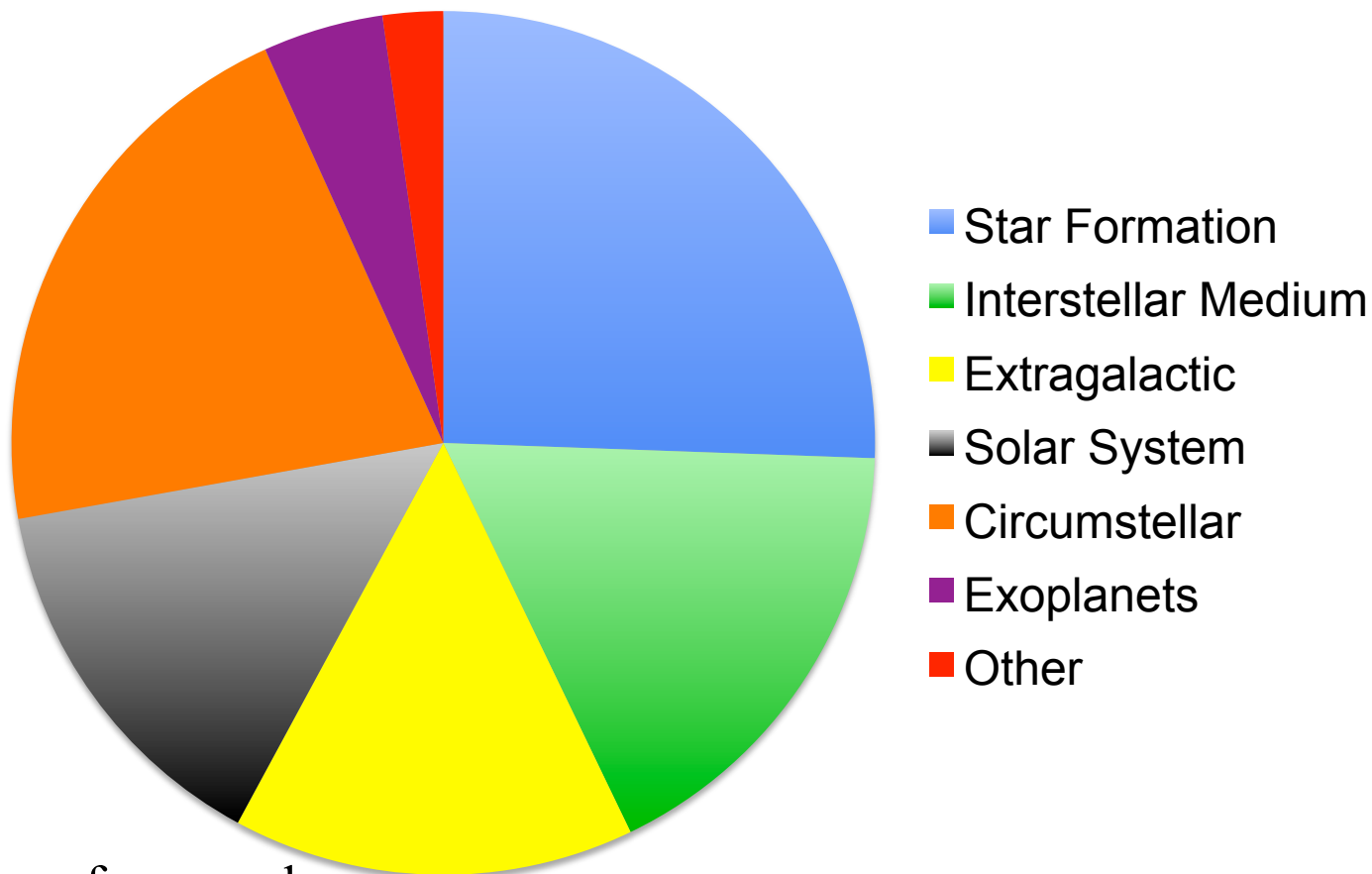
# Cycle 1 Proposal Statistics

## Cycle 1 “Boundary Conditions”

- Cycle 1 open to world astronomical community
- Period offered: ~~July 2012- August 2013~~ in four observing campaigns
  - Will be January – December 2013 also in campaigns
- Intermixed with observatory development and instrument commissioning
- Southern hemisphere deployment **is** being considered
  - High ranking proposals for southern targets were received
  - Deployment depends available funding
- Approximately 200 hours of time will be selected from the US call and approximately 40 hours from the German call

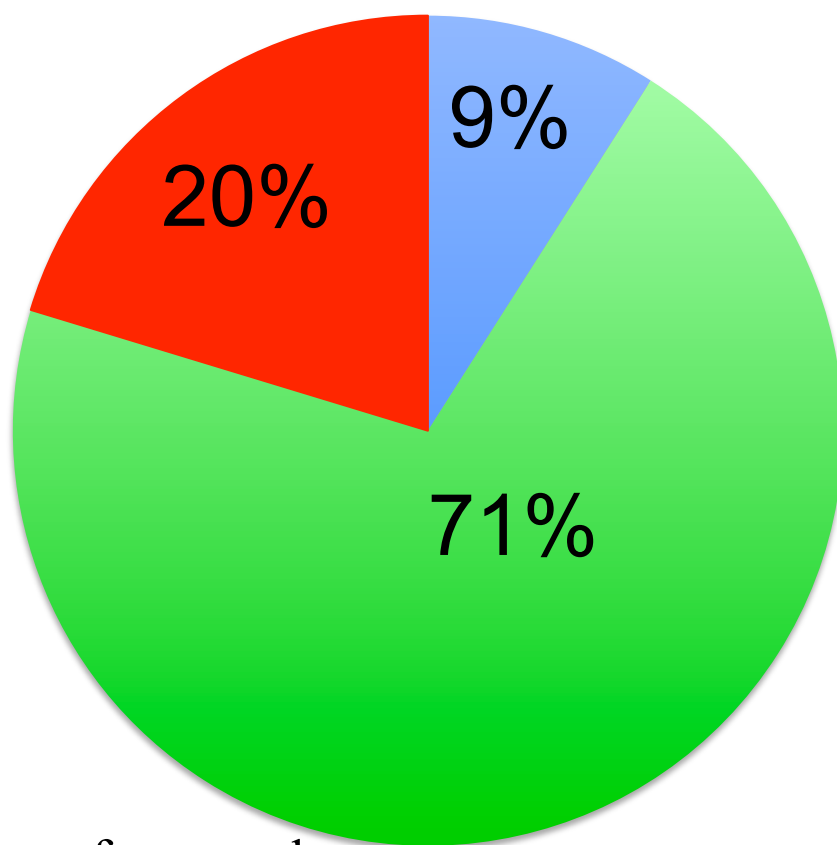
## Proposals by Category (US queue)

Broad Scientific Interest



By number of proposals

## Proposal Origin (Cy 1 US queue)



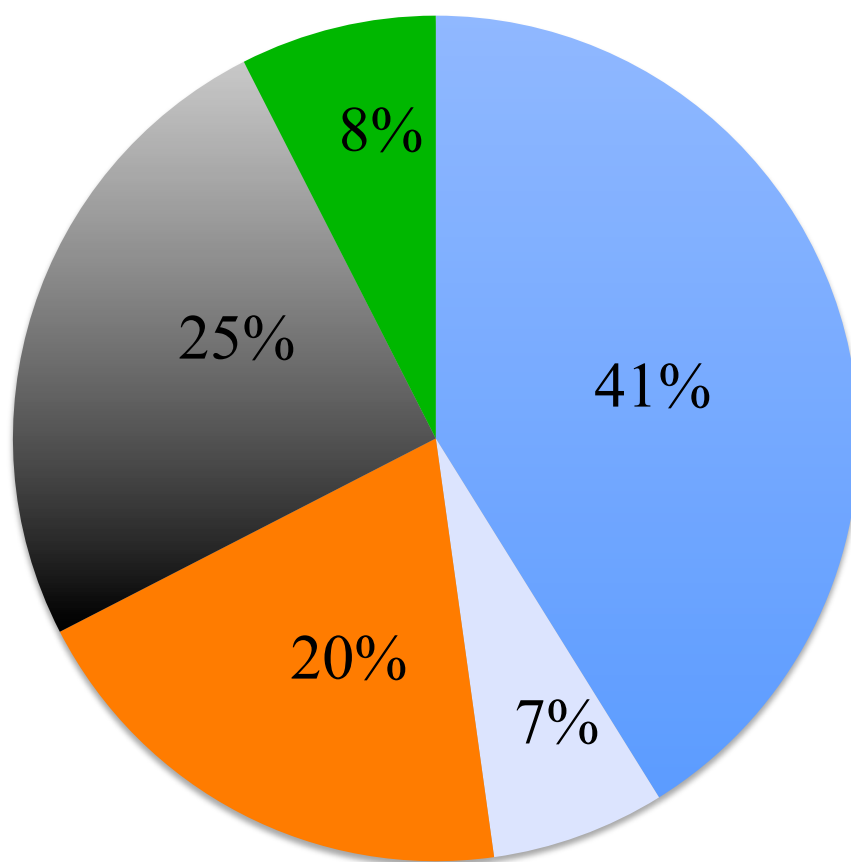
By number of proposals

- US - SOFIA Staff
- US non-SOFIA Staff
- International

Total # of unique, valid, proposals received:  
133 (US queue) +  
39 (German queue)

Proposals received from:  
10 countries on  
4 continents (US queue only)

## Time requests (Cy 1, US queue)



- FORCAST
- FORCAST survey
- FLITECAM
- GREAT
- HIPO/FLIPO

6 ToO programs  
22 Time critical programs  
(some with multiple targets)

Total requested time (US queue): 1207<sup>h</sup> standard, 86<sup>h</sup> survey (all FORCAST)  
OSR=6.0 (“standard” mode only)



## Cycle 1 Solicitation and Ingest

- Cycle 1 proposal solicitation and review was highly successful
- A wide variety of high quality science was proposed
  - Both review committees (US and German) were pleased with proposal pool
- Some lessons learned with proposal ingest tool
  - SPT (APT) is sensitive to non-ASCII characters
  - Particularly an issue for cut-and-paste from some editors
    - No proposals were lost due to software issues
- S-SPOT ready for, and will be used in, Cycle 1 phase 2.
- Cycle 1 Phase 2 will begin in July