Cycle 9 Revision

Since the original release of the Cycle 9 Call for Proposals, SOFIA experienced several schedule changes that require the call to be modified. In response to COVID-19, observations were temporarily suspended in March, resulting in the loss of several weeks of planned Cycle 8 observations in the Northern Hemisphere. The Cycle 8 Southern Deployment to New Zealand, originally planned for approximately June-August 2020 with the GREAT instrument, was also cancelled. The Cycle 9 Call for Proposals modifications include:

1. Change in Cycle 9 Dates: Cycle 9 will now begin July 1, 2021 and end September 30, 2022. Thus, Cycle 9 will contain two long deployments to New Zealand. All "Priority 1" and "Legacy" programs that were originally scheduled for the Cycle 8 Southern Deployment in 2020 will be carried over into the first Cycle 9 deployment to New Zealand, scheduled approximately July through September 2021.
   The second deployment to New Zealand, scheduled approximately July through September 2022, will include the GREAT and HAWC+ instruments. Proposals requiring HAWC+ for Southern targets available between July and September will be considered. Due to the high demand for southern targets in the Galactic plane with the GREAT instrument, and the guaranteed time already committed to the legacy programs, **Cycle 9 proposals requesting the GREAT instrument for targets near the Galactic Center or in the Inner Galaxy are less likely to be awarded observing time.** Other targets outside of this region, e.g. targets in the Magellanic Clouds, requiring the GREAT instrument are especially encouraged in Cycle 9.
   The planned short deployment for FIFI-LS in March 2022 is unaffected.

2. Overall Time Offered: Due to the extension of Cycle 9 through September 2022, SOFIA expects to award up to 500 hours in U.S. Guest Observer time and up to 200 hours of time for new "Legacy" proposals in Cycle 9 (400 hours over Cycles 9 and 10 for new projects).

3. Survey Proposals: SOFIA especially encourages "Survey" proposals, which propose to observe a small subset of a large number of targets. "Survey" proposals with a large pool of targets spread over a large range in right ascension are encouraged. Such projects must specify and justify the minimum number of targets necessary to complete the scientific objectives. Survey projects that require no more than one hour of observing time per target are more likely to succeed. The observatory plans to award up to 100 hours for survey programs.

4. Dual Anonymous Review: In Cycle 9, SOFIA proposal's review will be carried out under the Dual Anonymous Review framework. For additional information on the Dual Anonymous Review procedures, please see: https://www.sofia.usra.edu/science/proposing-and-observing/proposal-calls/cycle-9/cycle-9-dual-anonymous-review.

5. SOFIA Instrument Time Estimator updates: Minor revisions to the SOFIA Instrument Time Estimator (SITE) have recently been implemented for the FIFI and GREAT instruments. Please use the current version of SITE to estimate integration times for proposals: https://dcs.arc.nasa.gov/proposalDevelopment/SITE/index.jsp