



◆ Response to SUP Report May 2002



Issues and Recommendations (1)

(1) IMPACT OF SIRTf BUDGET ON SSC AND COMMUNITY

- ▶ *The SUP commends the SSC for its efforts to represent the scientific interests of the community, and to balance investments in critical pipelines and analysis software and individual investigator grants.*
- ▶ *SUP recommends to the SSC, the SIRTf Project and NASA Headquarters the following prioritized guidelines to inform decisions:*
 - (i) maximizing science return of SIRTf to the community
 - (ii) providing deeply understood, high fidelity data along with efficient analysis tools
 - (iii) staffing with sufficient margin to ensure high fidelity data, efficient operation and an appropriate level of technical support to the community
 - (iv) providing adequate funding for the community
 - (v) if funds to the SSC are reduced, the SSC do fewer tasks well
 - (vi) fundamental authority and responsibility for the amount and allocation of funds to project needs, SSC needs and user community funding should reside at NASA HQ.
- ▶ *SUP strongly urges that SSC involve SUP and OC (at least through telecons with the chairs) if such trades are under consideration. It is essential that SSC not be placed in the position of evaluating trades between user community resources and SSC resources without open and visible consultation with the community*
- ◆ **SSC will consult with SUP for community's perspective, as permitted by time-scales of such processes in the future**
- ◆ **Authority of budget allocation is indeed at HQ: SSC comments on impacts**



Issues and Recommendations (2)

SIRTf

(2) SCIENTIFIC STAFF AT THE SSC

- ▶ SUP observes the SSC has done a superb job in recruiting highly motivated and dedicated, largely young scientific staff. SUP wishes to ensure that the functional burden on the SSC staff not be so high that the staff cannot carry out an appropriately vigorous research program
- ▶ SUP urges SSC management to develop metrics to track time available for research and research productivity. These might include some reportable division between research and functional time, as well as metrics of ongoing productivity: publication and citation rates, awards of observing time, external support, etc.
- ▶ SUP also urges that SSC management pay especial attention to providing time and incentives to ensure high participation of the staff in the GO-1 SIRTf competition.

◆ Response

- ▶ SSC management has directed task leads to identify periods of time on individuals' schedules when science (or training & edu) is highest priority
- ▶ SSC is gathering and will report productivity metrics
- ▶ Time will be identified around observatory ship (Nov-Dec) for SSC staff to focus on preparing and getting started on GO-1 proposals. This should provide foundation for final submission at L+5 months



Issues and Recommendations (3)

SIRTf

(3) TIMELY AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FROM JPL

- ▶ The SUP urges SSC to work with JPL management and NASA Headquarters to develop a plan that ensures smooth and timely funding of Legacy and later, GO contracts.
- ▶ SUP thus also requests that SSC work with JPL management to prepare a comparison of projected contract administration costs with HST & Chandra

◆ Response:

- ▶ Issues are constantly being worked – see M.D. Bicy's report tomorrow



(4) AVAILABILITY OF LONG RANGE PLANNING WINDOW DATA

- ◆ *SUP requests that selected output from scheduling simulations be made available to GTOs and Legacy teams in order for these groups to assess the impact of likely sequencing/timing of observations on their teams' schedules for data acquisition and scientific analysis during SIRTf's first year.*

- ◆ **Response:**
 - ▶ *SSC will propose a set of products from planning and scheduling to be publicized to all users during normal operations – see Levine and Marston reports*
 - ▶ *More detailed products will be provided as samples with caveats to Legacy Science Teams and GTOs from the pre-Launch planning and scheduling exercise. -- see Levine and Marston reports*



(5) SIRTf DATA ARCHIVE AND LINKAGE TO THE NVO

- ▶ *The SUP requests that SSC work with IRSA to provide an evaluation of the manpower commitment that would be required in order to facilitate merging of SIRTf archival data into the evolving NVO framework.*

- ◆ **Response:**
 - ▶ *Current SIRTf Science Archive design takes into account the need for NVO-style access to the archive. Detailed requirements and cost of implementing such access is being derived as part of the detailed design now under way. IRSA expertise and experience is already engaged in this work. – see Storrie-Lombardi report*



(6) TELESCOPE ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

- ▶ *SUP requests a dialog with SSC aimed at discussing the proposed TAC structure, charges, and procedures for GO-1, and for GO-2 and beyond. In particular, SUP would like to understand*
 - (i) the philosophy SSC intends to adopt with respect to assessing small, medium and large requests, and
 - (ii) the number of discipline-specific TACs, and the breakdown among disciplines.
- ▶ *SUP would like to work interactively with SSC during early discussions to ensure that TAC processes will serve and will be perceived as serving the overall goals of maximizing science with SIRTf and ensuring broad community participation*
- ◆ **Response – see Bicap report**
 - ▶ *SSC will invite comments from SUP on philosophy of proposal size balancing, and approach to achieving balance in GO Calls*
 - ▶ *SSC will invite comments from SUP on structure of TAC and overview of process, plans for feedback to proposers. Note that TAC procedures and sizing may change with realities and number of proposals received*



(7) AVAILABILITY AND SUPPORT OF ANALYSIS TOOLS

- ▶ *SUP requests an update at its next meeting regarding the analysis tools (e.g. post-BCD modules developed at SSC; the SMART package) that are likely to be available and disseminated to the community in time for GO-1 and GO-2 and beyond. The SUP also requests that SSC outline how it plans to support, upgrade, and maintain the scientific fidelity of any community-accessible tools and data analysis packages.*
- ◆ **Response:**
 - ▶ *SSC will continue to report plans for analysis tools to SUP.*
 - ▶ *SSC will gather information from SMART developers and Legacy Science Teams planning tools to formulate answers to the questions about schedule and modes of support. This area is still evolving, and is best revisited at next meeting.*



Issues and Recommendations (8)



(8) WEBSITE UPDATE

- ▶ *SUP supports SSC efforts to review the science support website with the aim of making the presentation of material more uniform and bringing it up to date. We also appreciate the intent to update the pages devoted to SUP-SSC dialog and making them more visible to the community.*
- ▶ *We urge as well that current contact data for SUP members be included in these latter pages.*

◆ **Response:**

- ▶ *Work is on-going, and results are already visible on-line*



Issues and Recommendations (9)



(9) NEXT MEETING OF SUP

- ▶ *SUP requests that the next meeting be held during the last two weeks of October and urges that SSC management pin down the dates for the meeting prior to the end of June.*

◆ **Response:**

- ▶ *Next SUP meeting scheduled for Nov 4-5, 2002*