

Handling of Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) Proposals in the Beyond Mission Phase

Spitzer has entered the "Beyond" phase of the mission – the final 2.5 years. The Cycle-13 call for proposals was the final comprehensive proposal call for Spitzer. Up to 7000 hours of science can be executed in a year and over 14,000 hours was selected for Cycle-13. The Beyond phase of the mission is funded through the commissioning of JWST in March 2019.

To support emerging science opportunities that were not proposed for in Cycle-13 we have updated the Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) proposal handling process as follows:

1. DDT proposals may be submitted at any time. Investigators should not utilize DDT to resubmit all or part of a proposal that was rejected by the normal peer review process.
2. The review of time-critical proposals will continue to be done immediately.
3. Proposals that are not time critical will be reviewed on a structured schedule. The DDT review deadlines are:

February 28, 2017 — ~~noon, PST~~ Done!

September 12, 2017 noon, PDT

April 10, 2018 noon, PDT

4. Proposals of any size may be submitted. It is expected that ~500 hours will be awarded in each of the 2017 reviews, and 1000 – 2000 hours in the 2018 review. A very compelling larger program can be considered in 2017.
5. The default proprietary period for all DDT programs is zero days but a maximum 90-day proprietary period can be proposed.
6. DDT requests must include:
 - a. A justification for why the proposal was not submitted in Cycle-13
 - b. A designation of time criticality, i.e. does the proposal need immediate review or can it wait until the next scheduled DDT review.
 - c. A strong scientific justification
 - d. A description of the long-term legacy value of the program.
 - e. Completed Astronomical Observation Requests (AORs). No generic targets or undefined target of opportunity observations should be proposed.
7. As in Cycle-13, priority will be given to programs that are innovative, support Astro2010 science themes, observe targets in our Solar System, and/or develop the scientific landscape that JWST will explore or will help maximize the JWST scientific return.
8. The proposal must be submitted using the new DDT proposal template and follow the page limits and other instructions in the DDT proposal guidelines available on the Proposal Kit webpage (<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/warmmission/propkit/>).

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9. DDT proposals must be submitted via the DDT submission webpage at <https://cat.ipac.caltech.edu/DDT/application.html>

Please consult the Proposal Kit webpage (<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/warmmission/propkit/>) for more information and direct any questions to the Helpdesk (help@spitzer.caltech.edu).