Science Policies Update

STUC

15 June 2009
• Cycle 16 Supplement Summary
• NICMOS & ACS/HRC Proposals
• Cycle 18 Schedule
• Medium Sized Proposals in Cycle 18
C16 Supplement Summary

- The rescheduling of SM4 led to an extension of C16 by \(~6\) months
- Remaining C16 visits had been exhausted
- Insufficient number of C17 visits that could be brought forward
- NICMOS visits could not execute because of cryocooler failure
- Issued **Call for Supplementary Proposals on November 17, 2008**
• Phase I deadline: December 8, 2008
• Received **280 valid proposals** (269 GO, 11 SNAP) for 16081 orbits and 1085 targets
• NICMOS proposals were subsequently deferred
• Supplementary proposals do not carry over to C17

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• Oversubscription: 17:1
• 2-stage review; process dictated by time constraints
• 27 panel members; Chair: Rob Kennicutt
• Stage 1: submission of grades to rank order all proposals (4 reviewers per proposal)
• Stage 2: ranking of the top 15%. Grading by 9 – 11 panelists for small (< 75 orbits) and by all panelists for large (> 75) proposals
• Final selection by the Director on 1/13/09
17 programs with a total of 960 orbits selected

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• Completion status by the end of C16: ~78%

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NICMOS and ACS/HRC Proposals

- Notifications were sent out to PIs of programs using instrument modes that will or may not be available in Cycle 17
• **NICMOS**: the failure of the cryocooler leaves a number of C15, C16, C17 programs using NICMOS incomplete
  
• 41 programs totaling **767 orbits** affected

• 72% of these orbits are from C15 and C16

• It is unknown whether NICMOS will become available again

• The WFC3 group made assessment whether the affected programs can switch to WFC3 or a different instrument
• PI notifications on 3/25/09:
  – Terminate programs with > 90% completeness (4 programs / 10 orbits)
  – Can only use NICMOS and will terminate if NICMOS will remain unavailable (9 / 59)
  – Can be executed with WFC3 without science loss and possible orbit savings (18 / 334); conversion results in savings of 75 orbits
  – Science goals may be reached after conversion but PIs need to submit justification (10 / 364)
• In all cases, PIs were given the possibility to appeal via the TTRB
• PIs were told that the decision must be made now and must not be changed in the future in order not to disrupt the long-range plan
• Revised Phase 2 submissions were received by early May
• As of June 6, 2009, we have 8 NICMOS programs with a total of 74 orbits left for Cycle 17
• **ACS/HRC**: the ACS HRC channel could not be restored during SM4
• **31 programs totaling 510 orbits** affected
• The WFC3 and ACS groups made assessments whether the affected programs can switch to WFC3 or ACS/WFC or a different instrument
• PI notifications on 6/1/09:
  – Can be executed with WFC3 or ACS/WFC without science loss and possible orbit savings (19 programs / 435 orbits); conversion results in savings of 1 orbit
  – Science goals may be reached after conversion but PIs need to submit justification (12 / 75)

• Deadline: July 1, 2009 (still ongoing)
Cycle 18 Schedule

- Prior to SM4 slip, the C18 TAC was planned to be held in September 2009
- All dates slip with SM4 (i.e., by 9 months)
- Call for Proposals: December 2009
- Phase I deadline: March 2010
- TAC and Panel meetings: May 2010
- Phase II deadline: July 2010
TAC Organization

- TAC and Panel meetings: 17 – 21 May, 2010
- Location: STScI and JHU
- Timing constraint: after JHU finals and prior to commencement
- TAC Chair: Neta Bahcall (Princeton)
- SPG will work with the TAC Chair to select the Panel Chairs in July/August
- Note: there will be 6 instead 5 ExGal panels
Medium Sized Proposals in Cycle 18

- Feedback from the C17 panels suggests a concern that medium sized proposals (50 – 99 orbits) are less likely to be accepted than small or large proposals
- Applies in particular to the solar system and stellar panels
- Hot star panel: the community even hesitates to submit medium sized proposals because of perceived low chance of success
Acceptance Fraction by Size

Includes 3 Treasury programs approved by the TAC
• Current orbit subsidy applied in the panels:
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• Suggestions for increasing the acceptance fraction:
  – Add medium sized proposals to the TAC pool of Large programs (not recommended)
  – Lower the boundary between Large and Medium/Small proposals to 75 from 100
  – Make it mandatory for each panel to approve at least one medium sized proposal
  – Allocate more orbits to a panel if a medium sized proposal is approved (20?)
  – Modify the subsidy progression
• **We seek your input!**

  – Are medium sized proposals at a disadvantage?
  – Do medium-sized proposals support science that cannot be done with small or large proposals?
  – If so, how can we make sure they receive their fair share of orbits?