

Great Observatories “Lessons Learned Workshop

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Background

NASA commissioned the NRC to conduct a thorough review of NASA Science Centers in 2007

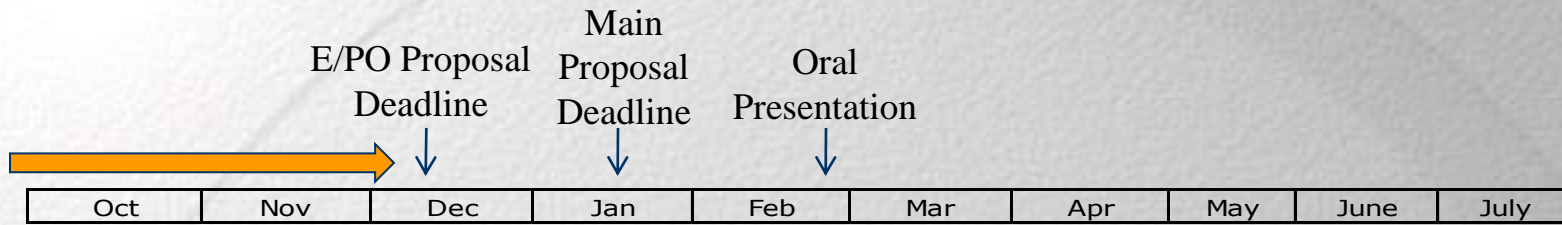
Resulted in NRC Report “Portals of the Universe” with three major recommendations:

1. **NASA should establish a large new center only when the following criteria are met: (1) the existing centers lack the capacity to support a major new scientific initiative and (2) there is an imminent need to develop a new infrastructure to support a broad base of users.**
2. **NASA should adopt a set of best practices as guiding principles to ensure the effectiveness of existing flagship and archival NASA astronomy science centers and to select the operational functions of any future centers.**
3. **NASA should ensure that NASA astronomy science centers cooperate among themselves and with other agencies to develop strategies and plans for**
 - ◆ **Developing common protocols and formats for proposal entry;**
 - ◆ **Developing a universal infrastructure for data formats and metadata, archiving, and retrieval and analysis tools; and**
 - ◆ **Providing curriculum materials and professional development programs for K-12 teachers.**

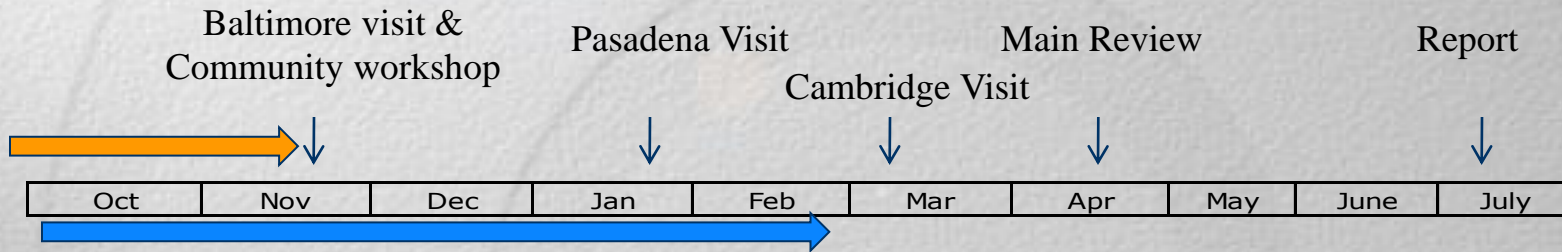
Proposed new NRC Study

- 30/7/2011: J. Morse commissions study to complement “Portals” by
 - ◆ examining the processes used by each science center, and comparing these processes between the science centers, for reviewing and awarding telescope observing time, access to scientific data, and funding. The goal of this study is to ensure that the practices, processes, and community relations of the science centers maximize the science for the available resources (observing time and funding), and to identify any contractual or management processes that hinder the centers from achieving this goal.
 - ◆ The timing of this study is driven by several factors. First, and most important, is the startup of the SOFIA science center. It is important that we capture the lessons learned from the other science centers to help make SOFIA as successful as possible. Second, Spitzer is coming closer to the end of its observational life and we would like to make sure we learn from its outstanding experience serving the community. Finally, now is a good time to step back and look to see how each of the science centers might learn and benefit from the work of the others.
- Timing of study coincides exactly with 2012 HST Senior Review

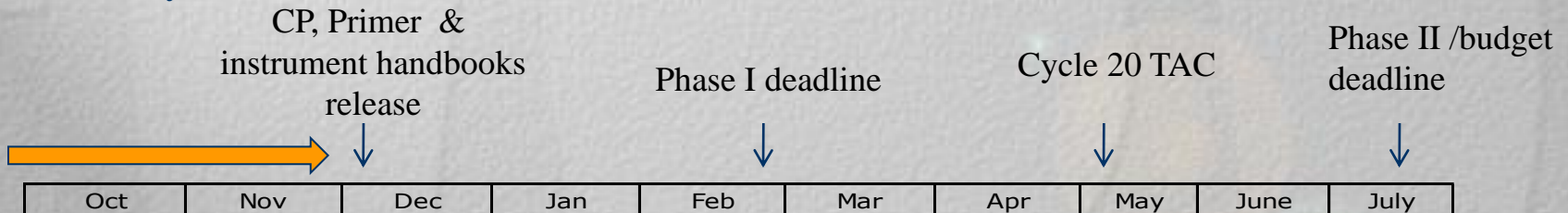
2012 Senior Review



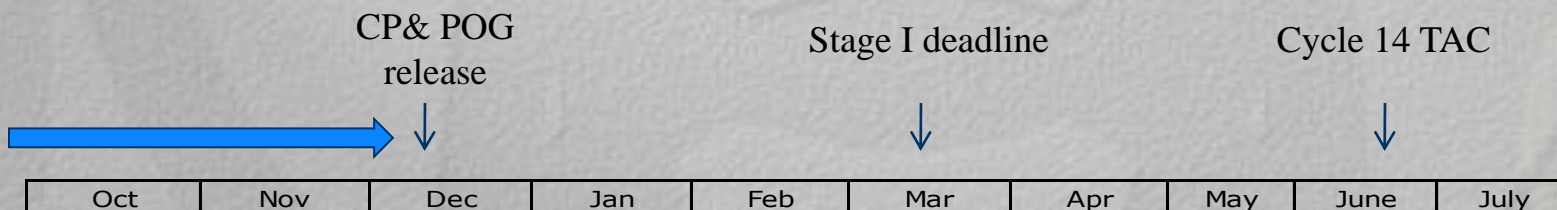
NRC NASA Center Review



HST Cycle 20



Chandra Cycle 14



Current status

- Following discussions with NASA HQ, proposed NRC review has been postponed by at least 1 year
- HST will host a 1-day workshop in mid-February
 - ◆ Representatives from Chandra, HST, Spitzer, SOFIA & JWST will discuss
 - ◆ Proposal submission & evaluation processes
 - ◆ Science policy issues
 - ◆ Community interaction
 - ◆ User support
 - ◆ Operational processes (planning, scheduling, calibration)
 - ◆ Archival support
 - ◆ Education/Outreach
 - ◆ International partnership
 - ◆ Using “Portals of the Universe” as a baseline, the goal is to compile a “lessons learned” report that will provide guidance to new missions and additional input for ongoing missions
- Will report on the results at the April 2012 STUC meeting