



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

JWST Director's Discretionary Time Update

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JWST Director's Discretionary Time

A Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) proposal is appropriate when a truly unexpected transient phenomenon occurs or when developments since the last proposal cycle make a time-critical observation necessary. The pool of JWST time for in-cycle DD proposals is limited and typical proposals are *less than 8 hours*, although larger requests can be considered under exceptional circumstances.

Time-critical Director's Discretionary Time proposals might be appropriate for:

- follow-up of newly-discovered unexpected transient phenomena, or when developments since the last proposal cycle make a time-critical observation necessary;
- the timely follow-up of new discoveries that will provide a critical link in the understanding of the phenomena.
- The opportunity to apply for JWST DD Time opened on *July 12, 2022*



Time-Critical DDT Procedure

Time-critical

DDT arrives

DDT Team reviews
for compliance

Proposal sent
for review
by lead

DDT team meets and
comes to a recommendation
based on reviews

DDT team meets with Director.
Presents proposal and provides
recommendation

Director makes
a decision

DDT Team communicates
decision to proposers

Compliance focuses on whether the proposal has justified the *time criticality* as well as sufficiently dual-anonymized.

The timescale of this process is determined by the urgency of the proposal (ultra-disruptive, disruptive, or non-disruptive).



Reviewer Evaluation

Reviewers are given a feedback template with the following questions:

The scientific merit of the proposed investigation and its potential contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge – grade 1-5;

The program's importance to astronomy in general – grade 1-5;

The scientific urgency of the observations and their suitability for a DDT proposal – grade 1-5;

The program science goals can only be achieved by observations with the James Webb Space Telescope – yes/no.

Is the science compelling and comparable in quality to other successful GO programs? – yes/no.

Is the resource request justified? – yes/no.

Grades are as follows:

1 - Excellent

2 - Very Good

3 - Good

4 - Fair

5 - Poor

Please provide brief text feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal, and a rationale for their grades.



Where to find latest JWST DDT information

The most up-to-date information about **available** DDT opportunities (corresponding to the current Cycle) can be found on J-Dox:

<https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/jwst-opportunities-and-policies/past-jwst-proposal-opportunities/jwst-call-for-proposals-for-cycle-1/jwst-cycle-1-proposal-categories/director-s-discretionary-dd-time-proposals>

An overview of the philosophy and both past and present DDT opportunities is available at the following link:

<https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/jwst-opportunities-and-policies/jwst-director-s-discretionary-time>