



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

JWST Cycle 1 GO/AR schedule

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JSTUC, August 2020



Building the JWST science program

- Cycle 1 GO/AR deadline is set as November 24 2020 for October 31 2021 launch date
 - Proposal schedule was set in consultation with the JSTUC
 - Pre-COVID-19 schedule was May 1 2020 deadline for a March 30 2021 LRD
 - Call for Proposals remains unchanged since its release on January 23
 - Nov 24 was chosen to give the community extensive time for proposal preparation (17 weeks) while preserving sufficient schedule to compile the full Cycle 1 science program
- The COVID-19 pandemic is producing widespread disruption and stress in the community
 - We recognize that the revised JWST schedule poses particular challenges for some
- This presentation outlines the overall process from proposal ingestion to finalizing programs for execution in the Long Range Plan & outlines how the schedule was set
 - Two major activities: science selection & proposal technical assessments
- Overarching goal
 - Ensure that the Cycle 1 science program is in place in advance of the launch date
 - Requires that appropriate personnel are available at the right time
- Supplementary goal
 - Take into account calendar constraints, including community events, holidays and other science proposal deadlines



The proposal review

- Following the ingest at the deadline, proposals are
 - Verified as complete
 - Panel assignment verified and re-balanced as necessary
 - Assigned to reviewers and reviewer balance set
 - Experience with HST shows that this requires 2-3 weeks for ~1,000 proposals
- Proposals are distributed to reviewers
 - Anticipate 60-90 proposals per panel & 50-60 proposals per reviewer
 - Provide *at least* 6 weeks before requiring preliminary grade submission
 - Pre-COVID-19 requirement
 - Preliminary grade deadline is at least 10 days prior to the TAC to ensure grades can be averaged to produce a preliminary ranking for triage
- TAC meeting
 - JWST TAC will be spread over 3 weeks to accommodate 21 panels and the super-TAC
 - ~200 community members, ~85% recruited
- Director's review
 - TAC results are compiled and large programs checked for scheduling complications
 - Typically 10 days to 2 weeks after the TAC meeting



Technical assessments

- PIs of accepted proposals are informed of the TAC results
 - Allow 3-4 weeks to finalise proposals
- All proposals are subject to technical review by STScI Instrument Division (INS) staff
 - Anticipate ~300 proposals
 - Anticipate ~4 months for technical review by INS staff
 - Based on experience with ERS and GTO proposals
 - Some more complex proposals may require more extensive review
 - Additional ~1+ month to update the Cycle 1 Calibration Plan
 - Take into account instrument usage in Cycle 1
- Technical reviews & Cal plan updates need to be completed before launch since those INS staff are required to support commissioning after launch
 - INS staff are participating in commissioning exercises and other activities throughout 2021



Schedule

- Proposal schedule needs to allow for other events, including
 - CSA Discovery on November 1
 - NSF AST on November 16
 - Thanksgiving
 - NASA APRA December 17
 - New Year holidays
 - AAS winter meeting
 - Chandra on March 16
 - HST on April 8
- Current schedule aims to enable technical reviews to start in late April
 - Provides ~1 month margin for October 31 launch date



July 2020–June 2021 (United States)

X

Deadline

D

Proposals distributed by this date

P

Preliminary grades be this date

R

Director's review

T

Proposals finalized & tech reviews start

July 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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November 2020

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March 2021

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August 2020

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December 2020

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April 2021

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September 2020

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January 2021

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May 2021

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October 2020

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February 2021

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June 2021

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|---|--|--|---|
| Jul 3, 2020 ● 'Independence Day' observed | Oct 31, 2020 ● Halloween | Dec 24, 2020 ● Christmas Eve | Feb 1, 2021 ● First Day of Black History Month |
| Jul 4, 2020 ● Independence Day | Nov 3, 2020 ● Election Day | Dec 25, 2020 ● Christmas Day | Feb 14, 2021 ● Valentine's Day |
| Jul 15, 2020 ● Tax Day | Nov 11, 2020 ● Veterans Day | Dec 31, 2020 ● New Year's Eve | Feb 15, 2021 ● Presidents' Day (Most regions) |
| Sep 7, 2020 ● Labor Day | Nov 26, 2020 ● Thanksgiving Day | Jan 1, 2021 ● New Year's Day | Mar 1, 2021 ● First Day of Women's History Month |
| Oct 12, 2020 ● Columbus Day (Most regions) | Nov 27, 2020 ● Black Friday | Jan 18, 2021 ● Martin Luther King Jr. Day | |



Mitigations

- Moving the proposal deadline wholesale would lead to major issues
 - TAC dates are set and TAC members are (re-)recruited
 - Slipping the deadline will compress the review schedule
 - Moving to help one segment of the community could disadvantage a different segment
- As an alternative, we might consider late completion dates for a limited number of proposals
 - Recent experience with COVID-19-impacted proposals at the HST Cycle 28 deadline
 - Also Cy 26 mid-cycle for civil servants affected by government shutdown
 - Initial versions of the proposals would need to be submitted prior to the deadline
 - Initial versions would need to include sufficient information to enable panel assignment
 - Proposers would need to submit an extension request in advance of the deadline
 - Not all requests will be accepted
- Clear criteria for such an extension must be defined
 - Need to be understood as fair for those who will not qualify
 - Look to the JSTUC for advice on appropriate criteria



Summary

- The JWST Cycle 1 GO/AR deadline is set as November 24 2020
 - Schedule was set in consultation with the JSTUC
 - The schedule needs to accommodate the proposal ingest, assignment and review; the final proposal selection; and the proposal finalization and technical review.
- We recognize that the schedule raises challenges for some
 - The new deadline was announced on July 23 (17 weeks notice) to allow community members to plan as best they can in these challenging times
 - We need to maintain the Nov 24 deadline to ensure that the Cycle 1 science program is in place before launch
 - There is sufficient flexibility that we could consider allowing a late completion date for a limited number of proposals
 - Requires a clear justification for the extension and an initial submission by Nov 24
 - Criteria for accepting requests should be endorsed by the JSTUC