



## 1647 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Cycle: 1, Proposal Category: GO

### INVESTIGATORS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>E-Mail</i>
<b>Andrew Swan (PI) (ESA Member)</b>	<b>The University of Warwick</b>	<b>andrew.swan@warwick.ac.uk</b>
Prof. Jay Farihi (CoI) (ESA Member)	University College London	j.farihi@ucl.ac.uk
Dr. Kate Y.L Su (CoI) (US Admin CoI)	University of Arizona	ksu@as.arizona.edu

### OBSERVATIONS

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Observation</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>Observing Template</i>	<i>Science Target</i>
Epoch 1				
	1	NIRSPEC BOTS prism	NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series	(1) WD0145+234
	3	MIRI MRS	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(1) WD0145+234
Epoch 2				
	4	NIRSPEC BOTS prism	NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series	(1) WD0145+234
Epoch 3				
	5	NIRSPEC BOTS prism	NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series	(1) WD0145+234
Epoch 4				
	6	NIRSPEC BOTS prism	NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series	(1) WD0145+234
Epoch 5				
	7	NIRSPEC BOTS prism	NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series	(1) WD0145+234
Epoch 6				
	8	NIRSPEC BOTS prism	NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series	(1) WD0145+234
	18	NIRSPEC BOTS prism	NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series	(1) WD0145+234
	9	MIRI MRS	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(1) WD0145+234
	19	MIRI MRS	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(1) WD0145+234

## **ABSTRACT**

A polluted white dwarf hosting a planetary debris disc is experiencing an infrared outburst on a scale unprecedented in decades of observations. Recent follow-up photometry confirms the system remains highly active, and we propose multi-wavelength monitoring across a range of timescales to follow this event as it unfolds.

There is compelling evidence that planetary systems survive through stellar evolution and emerge dynamically active around white dwarfs. WD0145+234 is a rare example where emission from circumstellar gas and dust accompanies the photospheric metals. It recently brightened by over one magnitude in the infrared, likely due to emission from dust liberated in planetesimal collisions. Catching it in such an active state gives us a ringside view of white dwarf debris disc evolution in real time.

As one of the brightest representatives of its class, the system is ripe for mineralogical characterisation, and the collisional activity makes a strong case for a search for variation. If optical studies show changes in the photospheric metals, they would be the first of their kind, so taking infrared spectra in parallel is the best way to maximise the science return.

Timely infrared observations are critical to understanding the nature of this spectacular event. Our program will investigate the composition, dynamics, and evolution of this evolved planetary system, and the insights gained will be applicable across the population.

## **OBSERVING DESCRIPTION**

(1) Photometric monitoring, using NIRSpec in BOTS mode with the prism to obtain hour-long light curves, which themselves will be used to build up a long-term light curve.

(2) MIRI MRS spectroscopy to characterise the system. Wavelengths up to 13 microns are targeted at  $S/N > 20$ , based on a conservative estimate of the dust brightness. Longer wavelength data will be binned in the spectral direction to measure the continuum and any broad features.

Six epochs of photometry are required, the first and last of which will also take MIRI spectra. Observation groups are set up so that visits occur on an approximately logarithmically-spaced cadence, and so that MIRI spectra are taken as close as possible to the photometry.

Proposal 1647 - Targets - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Miscellaneous
	(1)	WD0145+234	RA: 01 47 54.8118 (26.9783825d) Dec: +23 39 42.09 (23.66169d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -3.791405848904527E-4 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: -0.0975890000745494 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
	<i>Comments: This object was generated by the targetselector and retrieved from the SIMBAD database.</i> Category=Star Description=[Circumstellar dust, Circumstellar gas, White dwarfs] Extended=NO				

Proposal 1647 - Observation 1 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Wed Jan 18 23:00:57 GMT 2023

<b>Observation</b>	<p><b>Proposal 1647, Observation 1: NIRSPEC BOTS prism</b></p> <p><b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b></p> <p>Observing Template: NIRSPEC Bright Object Time Series</p>																															
<b>Diagnostics</b>	(Visit 1:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.																															
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<b>Special Requirements</b>	<p>Time Series Observation No Parallel Attachments</p> <p>Group Observations 1, 3, Non-interruptible</p>																															

Proposal 1647 - Observation 3 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

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<b>Observation</b>	<b>Proposal 1647, Observation 3: MIRI MRS</b> <b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b> Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy												
	(Visit 3:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.												
<b>Fixed Targets</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Target Coordinates</b>			<b>Targ. Coord. Corrections</b>			<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
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	1	SAME	F560W	FAST	6	1	1	16.65	64853.13				
<b>Template</b>	<b>Primary Channel</b>			<b>Simultaneous Imaging</b>				<b>Imager Subarray</b>					
	ALL			YES				FULL					
<b>Dithers</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Dither Type</b>				<b>Optimized For</b>			<b>Direction</b>				
	1	4-Point				POINT SOURCE			NEGATIVE				
<b>Spectral Elements</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Wavelength Range</b>	<b>Detector</b>	<b>Filter</b>	<b>Readout Pattern</b>	<b>Groups/Int</b>	<b>Integrations/Exp</b>	<b>Exposures/Dith</b>	<b>Dither</b>	<b>Total Dithers</b>	<b>Total Integrations</b>	<b>Total Exposure Time</b>	<b>ETC Wkbk.Calc ID</b>
	1		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.4
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.12
	2		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.2
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.10
	3		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	3	LONG(C)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.1
	3	LONG(C)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.8

Proposal 1647 - Observation 3 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Special Requirements

Group Observations 1, 3, Non-interruptible

Proposal 1647 - Observation 4 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

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<b>Observation</b>	<p><b>Proposal 1647, Observation 4: NIRSPEC BOTS prism</b></p> <p><b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b></p> <p>Observing Template: NIRSPEC Bright Object Time Series</p>										
<b>Diagnostics</b>	(Visit 4:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.										
<b>Fixed Targets</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Target Coordinates</b>		<b>Targ. Coord. Corrections</b>			<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
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	1	SAME	WATA	SUB32	F140X	NRSRAPID	3	1	1	0.08	58193.29
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	1	PRISM/CLEAR	NRSRAPID	33	467	1	1	467	3600.533	58193.45	
<b>Special Requirements</b>	<p>Time Series Observation</p> <p>No Parallel Attachments</p>										

Proposal 1647 - Observation 5 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

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<b>Observation</b>	<p><b>Proposal 1647, Observation 5: NIRSPEC BOTS prism</b>  <b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b>                  Observing Template: NIRSPEC Bright Object Time Series</p>																																										
<b>Diagnostics</b>	(Visit 5:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.																																										
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Proposal 1647 - Observation 6 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

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<b>Special Requirements</b>	<p>Time Series Observation                  No Parallel Attachments                  6 After 5 by 256 Hours to 320 Hours                  7 After 6 by 512 Hours to 640 Hours</p>																																										

Proposal 1647 - Observation 7 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Wed Jan 18 23:00:57 GMT 2023

<b>Observation</b>	<p><b>Proposal 1647, Observation 7: NIRSPEC BOTS prism</b>  <b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b>                  Observing Template: NIRSPEC Bright Object Time Series</p>																																										
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<b>Special Requirements</b>	<p>Time Series Observation                  No Parallel Attachments                  7 After 6 by 512 Hours to 640 Hours                  8 After 7 by 1024 Hours to &lt;None specified&gt;</p>																																										

Proposal 1647 - Observation 8 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Wed Jan 18 23:00:57 GMT 2023

<b>Observation</b>	<p><b>Proposal 1647, Observation 8: NIRSPEC BOTS prism</b>  <b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b>                  Observing Template: NIRSPEC Bright Object Time Series</p>																																										
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Proposal 1647 - Observation 18 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Wed Jan 18 23:00:57 GMT 2023

<b>Observation</b>	<p><b>Proposal 1647, Observation 18: NIRSPEC BOTS prism</b>  <b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b>                  Observing Template: NIRSPEC Bright Object Time Series</p>																																										
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<b>Special Requirements</b>	<p>Time Series Observation                  No Parallel Attachments                  Group Observations 18, 19, Non-interruptible</p>																																										

Proposal 1647 - Observation 9 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Wed Jan 18 23:00:57 GMT 2023

<b>Observation</b>	<b>Proposal 1647, Observation 9: MIRI MRS</b> <b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b> Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy												
	(Visit 9:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.												
<b>Fixed Targets</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Target Coordinates</b>			<b>Targ. Coord. Corrections</b>			<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
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	1	SAME	F560W	FAST	6	1	1	16.65	64853.13				
<b>Template</b>	<b>Primary Channel</b>			<b>Simultaneous Imaging</b>				<b>Imager Subarray</b>					
	ALL			YES				FULL					
<b>Dithers</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Dither Type</b>			<b>Optimized For</b>			<b>Direction</b>					
	1	4-Point			POINT SOURCE			NEGATIVE					
<b>Spectral Elements</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Wavelength Range</b>	<b>Detector</b>	<b>Filter</b>	<b>Readout Pattern</b>	<b>Groups/Int</b>	<b>Integrations/Exp</b>	<b>Exposures/Dith</b>	<b>Dither</b>	<b>Total Dithers</b>	<b>Total Integrations</b>	<b>Total Exposure Time</b>	<b>ETC Wkbk.Calc ID</b>
	1		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.1
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.8
	2		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.2
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.10
	3		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	3	LONG(C)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.4
	3	LONG(C)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.12

Proposal 1647 - Observation 9 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Special Requirements

Group Observations 8, 9, Non-interruptible

Proposal 1647 - Observation 19 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

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<b>Observation</b>	<b>Proposal 1647, Observation 19: MIRI MRS</b> <b>Diagnostic Status: Warning</b> Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy												
	(Visit 19:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.												
<b>Fixed Targets</b>	#	Name	Target Coordinates			Targ. Coord. Corrections			Miscellaneous				
	(1)	WD0145+234	RA: 01 47 54.8118 (26.9783825d) Dec: +23 39 42.09 (23.66169d) Equinox: J2000			Proper Motion RA: -3.791405848904527E-4 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: -0.0975890000745494 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 2015.5							
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<b>Template</b>	Primary Channel			Simultaneous Imaging				Imager Subarray					
	ALL			YES				FULL					
<b>Dithers</b>	#	Dither Type			Optimized For			Direction					
	1	4-Point			POINT SOURCE			NEGATIVE					
<b>Spectral Elements</b>	#	Wavelength Range	Detector	Filter	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Exp	Exposures/Dith	Dither	Total Dithers	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	ETC Wkbk.Calc ID
	1		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.1
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.8
	2		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.2
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.10
	3		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	58193.6
	3	LONG(C)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.4
	3	LONG(C)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	100	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	1110.016	64853.12

Proposal 1647 - Observation 19 - Caught in the act: a debris disc in outburst

Special Requirements

Group Observations 18, 19, Non-interruptible