
SOFIA Users' Group Introduction, Charter, Goals

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12 March 2012

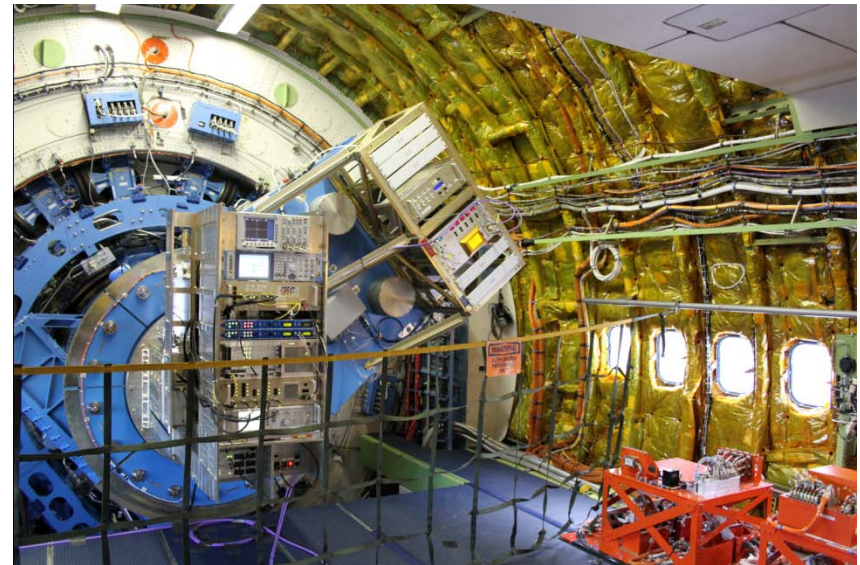
SOFIA Users' Group Meeting

Agenda

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Introduction, Charter, Goals (Young, Gehrz)
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Cycle 1: Hours, Documentation, Deadlines (Andersson)
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Summary of Experiences from Early Science (Sankrit)
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Coffee break
11:00 am – 11:30 am	SOFIA/DCS Software and Updates (Shuping)
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Scientific Results from Early Science (Becklin)
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (provided)
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Status of observatory characterization (Temi)
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Future Science Instruments (Marcum)
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Cycle 2 Plans (Reach)
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Coffee break
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Program Plans for the Ramp-up to Operations (Young, Hall)
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Wrap-up, Q&A, executive session (SUG)
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Debrief (SUG)

Successful Start of Science Observations on SOFIA

- Short Science 1
 - 3 flights with FORCAST in December 2011
- Short Science 2
 - 3 flights with GREAT heterodyne spectrometer
 - Completed in April 2011
- Basic Science 1
 - Series of 10 flights with FORCAST mid-infrared camera
 - Included Guest Investigator programs solicited from the world astronomical community
 - Flight series completed in June 2011
- Pluto Occultation
 - Successful observation occultation of a background star by Pluto on June 23, 2011.
 - Demonstrated advantage of SOFIA mobility to get to the shadow path at the precise time of the event
- Basic Science 2 and German Science Demonstration Time
 - Series of 13 flights with the GREAT instrument
 - Included substantial Guest Investigator program
 - First flight July 13, 2011
 - Completed November 9, 2011

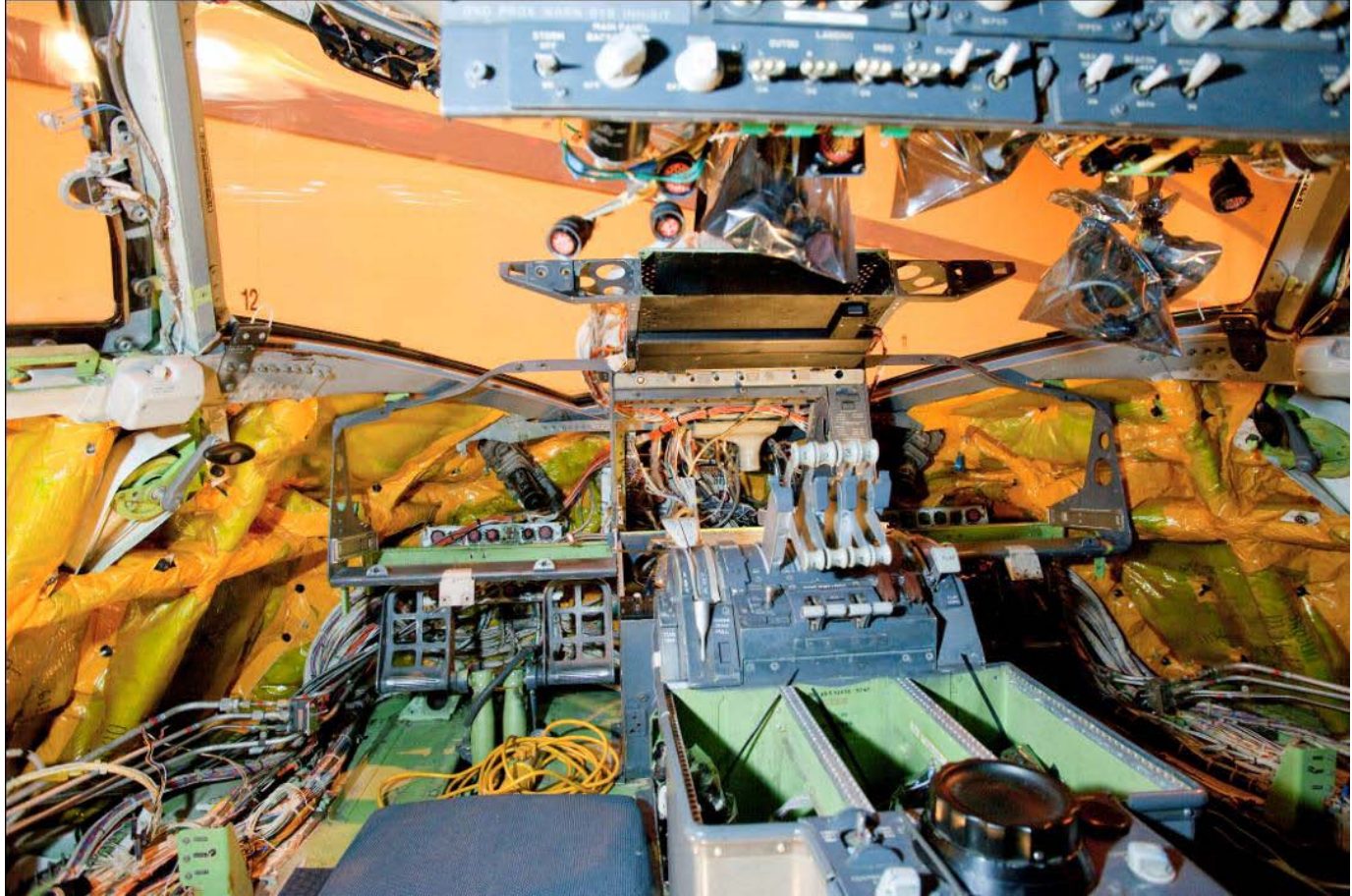


GREAT mounted in
SOFIA

Recent Science Highlights

- Austin Meeting of American Astronomical Society, January 2012
 - Special Science Session featuring SOFIA results
 - Press conference: An Infrared Extravaganza
 - WISE, Herschel, Spitzer, and SOFIA featured
- Special Issue of Astrophysical Journal
 - Features FORCAST results from Early Science
 - 8 papers have been accepted and will be published in mid-April 2012
- Special Issue of Astronomy & Astrophysics
 - Features GREAT results from Early Science
 - 22 papers have been submitted

Segment 3 Downtime in Progress



SOFIA Flight Deck Modifications

SUG Coverage

- Items for SUG to Consider include:
 - Feedback on (released) Proposal calls
 - Observer support (helpdesk, workshops, operations)
 - User-friendliness of the observatory and of its interfaces to the community
 - Effectiveness of outreach to the scientific community
 - Assessing and reporting performance and efficiency of the observatory and instruments
 - Observation preparation tools
 - Data analysis methods

SUG Charter

- **Charter**

- The SUG will report to the SMO Director.
- The SUG will be chaired by a member of their own election. The Chair shall communicate with the SUG members to obtain agenda items and feedback.
- The SMO Associate Director for Science will serve as Executive Secretary for SUG, organizing invitations and the agenda.
- The SUG will write a report for each meeting (minimally, an emailed summary to the Executive Secretary). The SMO shall publish a report for each meeting on the SOFIA website.
- Meetings, either face-to-face or virtually through use of telecommunication technologies, should occur at least twice per year.
- Meetings will be primarily at NASA Ames, with occasional meetings near the Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility (home of the SOFIA aircraft) or when expedient in association with an offsite workshop or conference.

SUG Membership

- 10 Members
- Membership goal is 80:20 US to German representation
- Nominally 2 members from instrument teams
- Appointed by Science Mission Operations Director
- 3-year staggered terms

Current Membership

- SOFIA Users' Group Members
 - Bob Gehrz (University of Minnesota), Chair
 - Lee Armus (IPAC/ Caltech)
 - John Bally (University of Colorado)
 - Imke de Pater (University of California, Berkeley)
 - Jochen Eisloffel (University of Tautenberg)
 - Urs Graf (University of Cologne)
 - Al Harper (Yerkes Observatory)
 - Luke Keller (Ithaca College)
 - Di Li (JPL)
 - Keith Noll (NASA GSFC)

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