



SOFIA Update

Erick Young
SOFIA Science Mission Operations

AAS 224th Meeting
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SOFIA

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy



- Highly modified 747-SP aircraft with a 2.5-m telescope
- Flies up to 45,000 ft, above 99% of the water vapor in the atmosphere
- Suite of infrared imagers and spectrometers



Topics



- What's been happening on the Mission
 - Cycle 2 Observations
 - New Instruments
- Recent Events
 - Budget
- Upcoming Activities
 - Cycle 3 Call for Proposals





Cycle 2

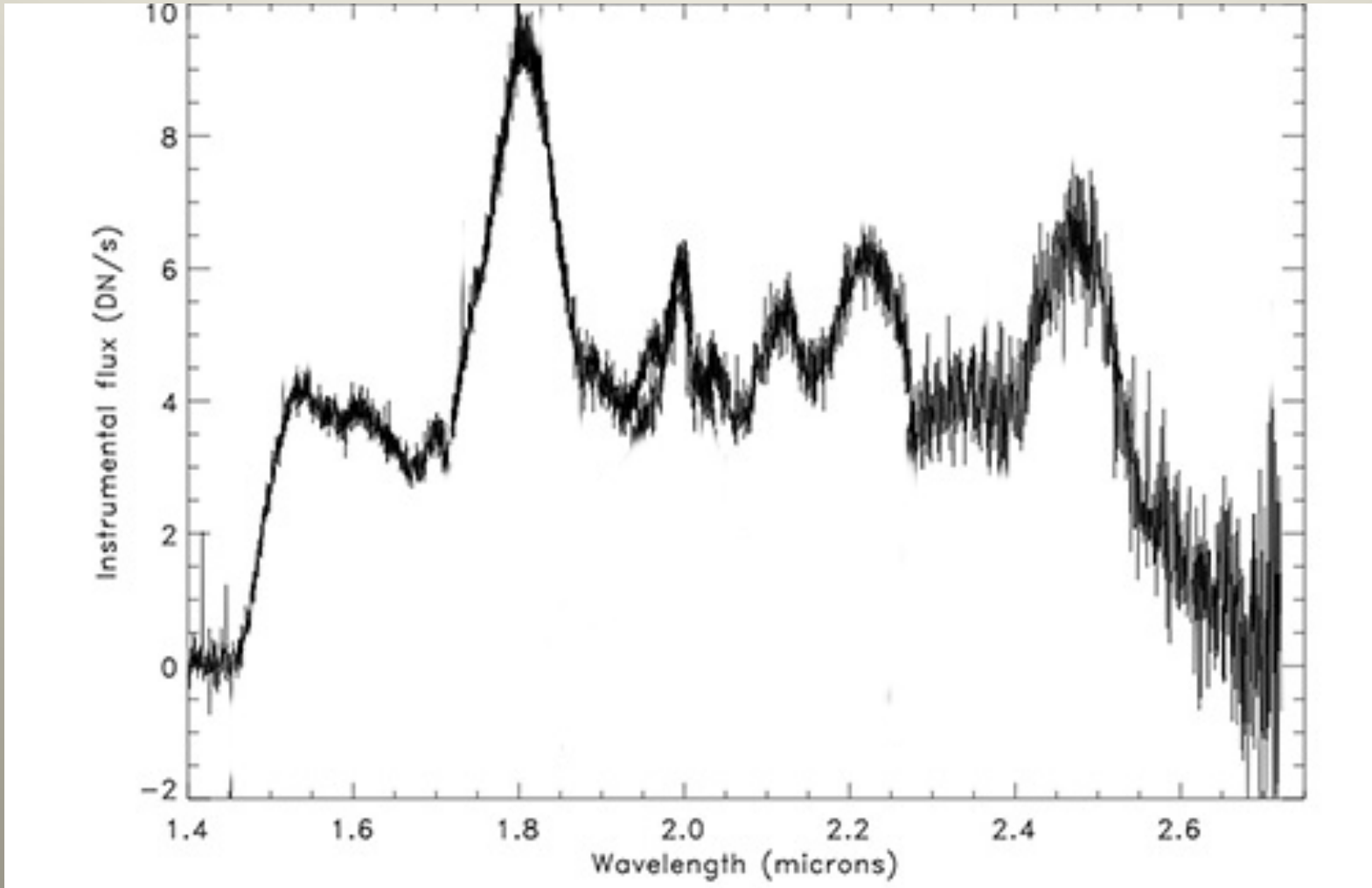


- The team has been doing an amazing job of executing the mission of SOFIA
 - FLITECAM commissioned
 - FIFI-LS commissioned
 - EXES first light
 - See press release by Matt Richter
 - GREAT H-channel commissioned
 - Successful FORCAST & GREAT flight series
- Since the beginning of Cycle 2 in February, SOFIA has over 240 hours of observations



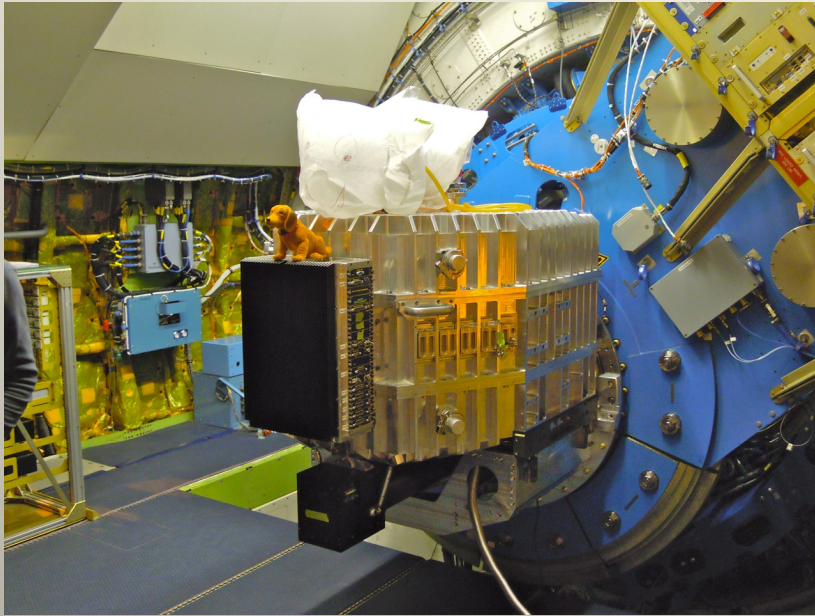


FLITECAM Spectrum SN 2014J





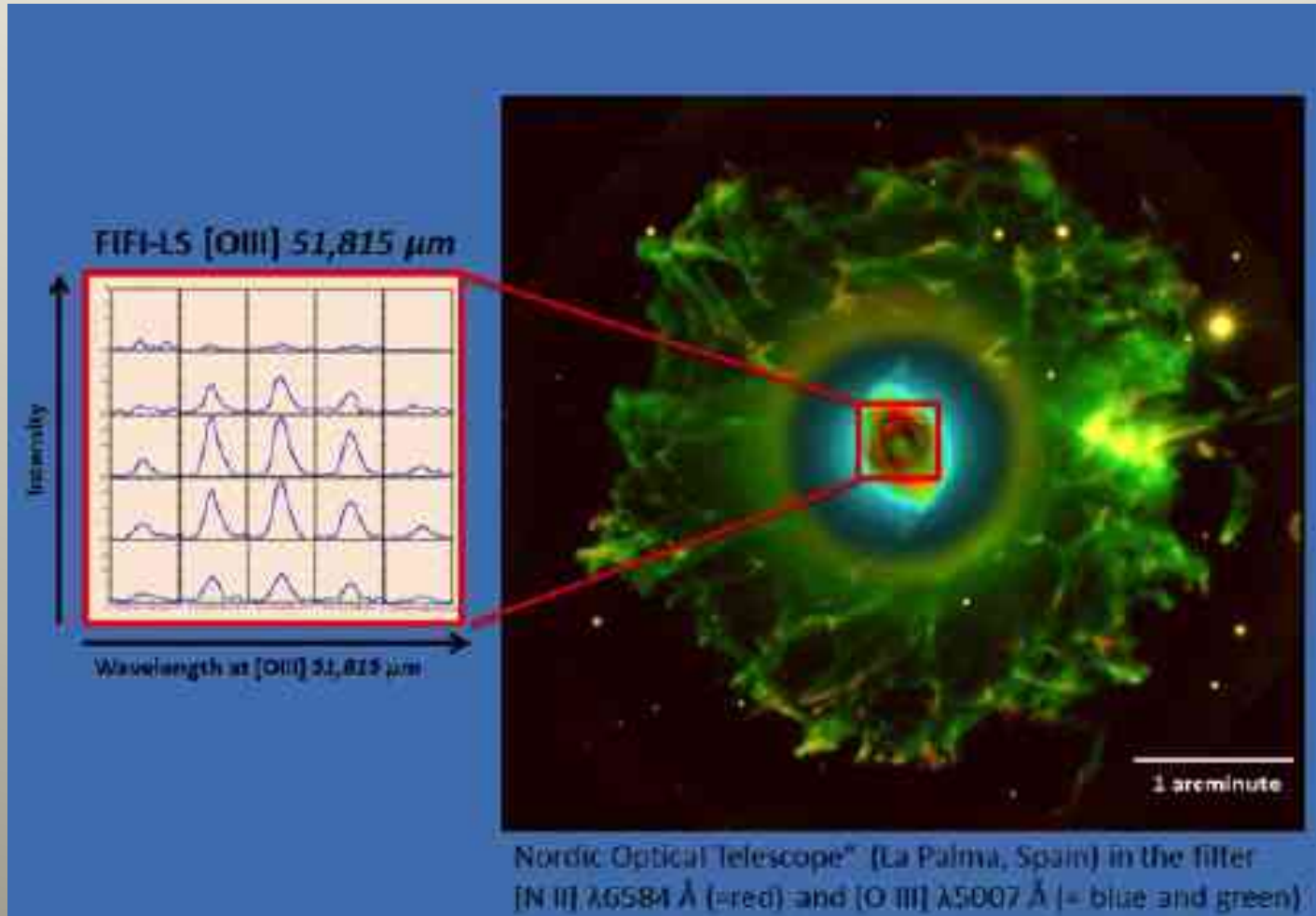
FIFI-LS and EXES First Light



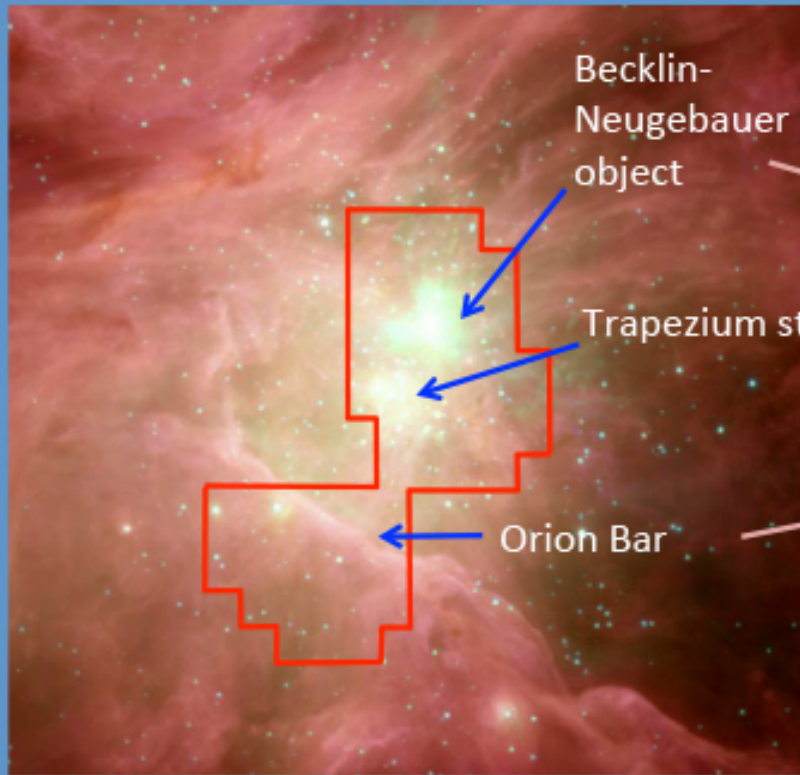
FIFI-LS on the telescope
First Light Flight 150

EXES Team after installation
First Light Flight 158





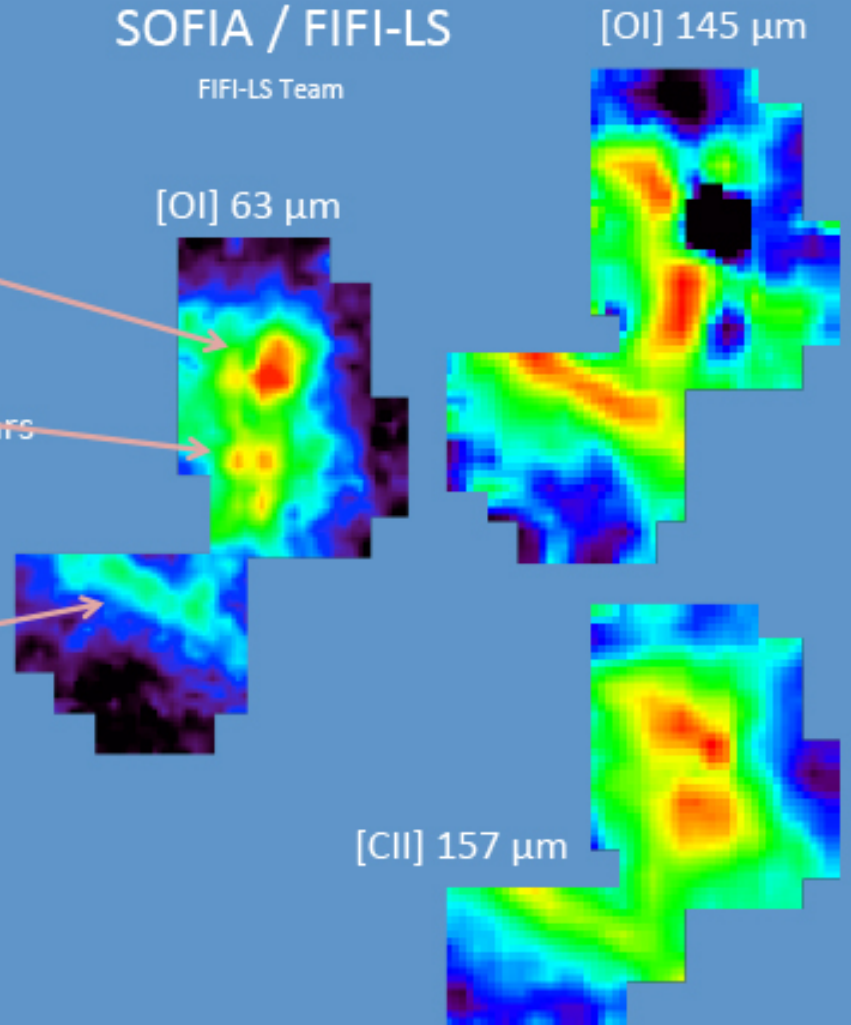
Orion Nebula

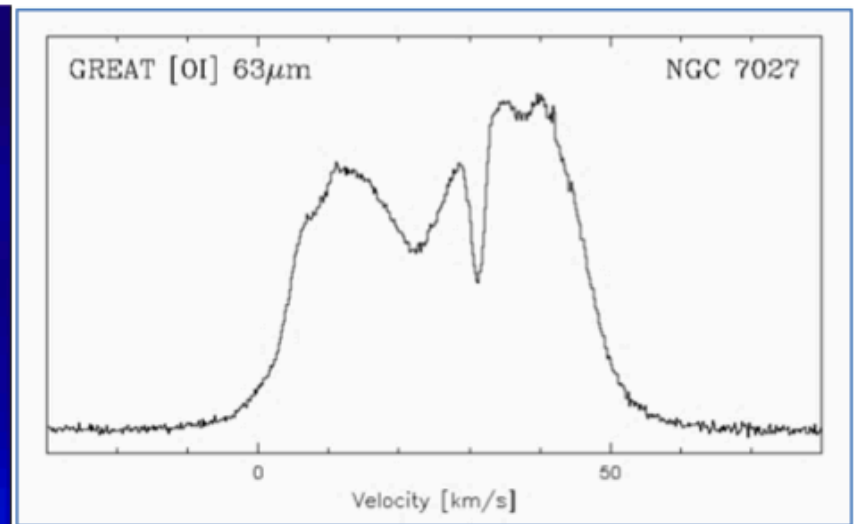
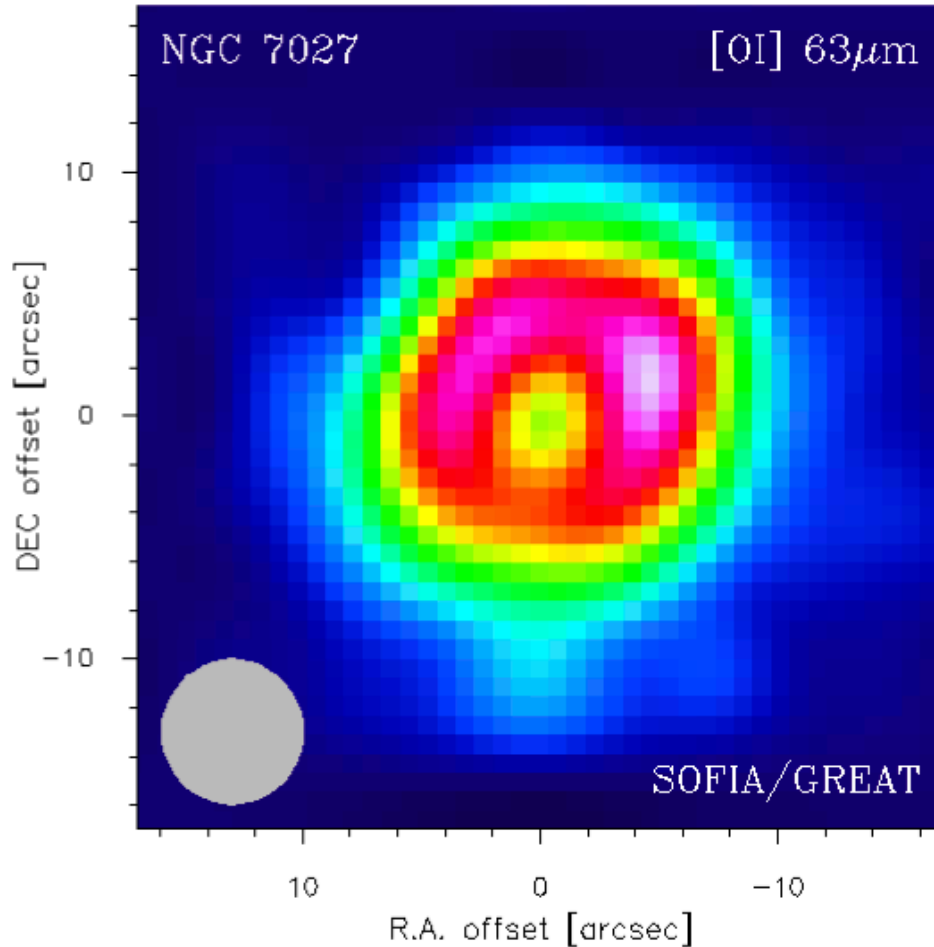


NASA/Spitzer/Harvard-Smithsonian CfA, Thomas Megeath

SOFIA / FIFI-LS

FIFI-LS Team





(Rolf Güsten & the GREAT Team)



SOFIA Budget Situation



- SOFIA was identified for “storage” in FY 2015 NASA proposed budget unless other funding was identified.
- There has been an active effort to advocate for SOFIA by those outside of the Federal Government, and currently the situation appears hopeful
 - Partial restoration in the passed House Appropriations bill
 - The Senate Appropriations Committee is marking up the bill this week
 - SOFIA restoration is in the context of an overall increase in the NASA budget and the Science Mission Directorate in particular
- In anticipation of restoration of funding, SOFIA is moving ahead with plans for next year
 - Planned Heavy Maintenance of airplane is moving ahead this summer
 - Cycle 3 Call for Proposals





Cycle 3 Call for Proposals Released



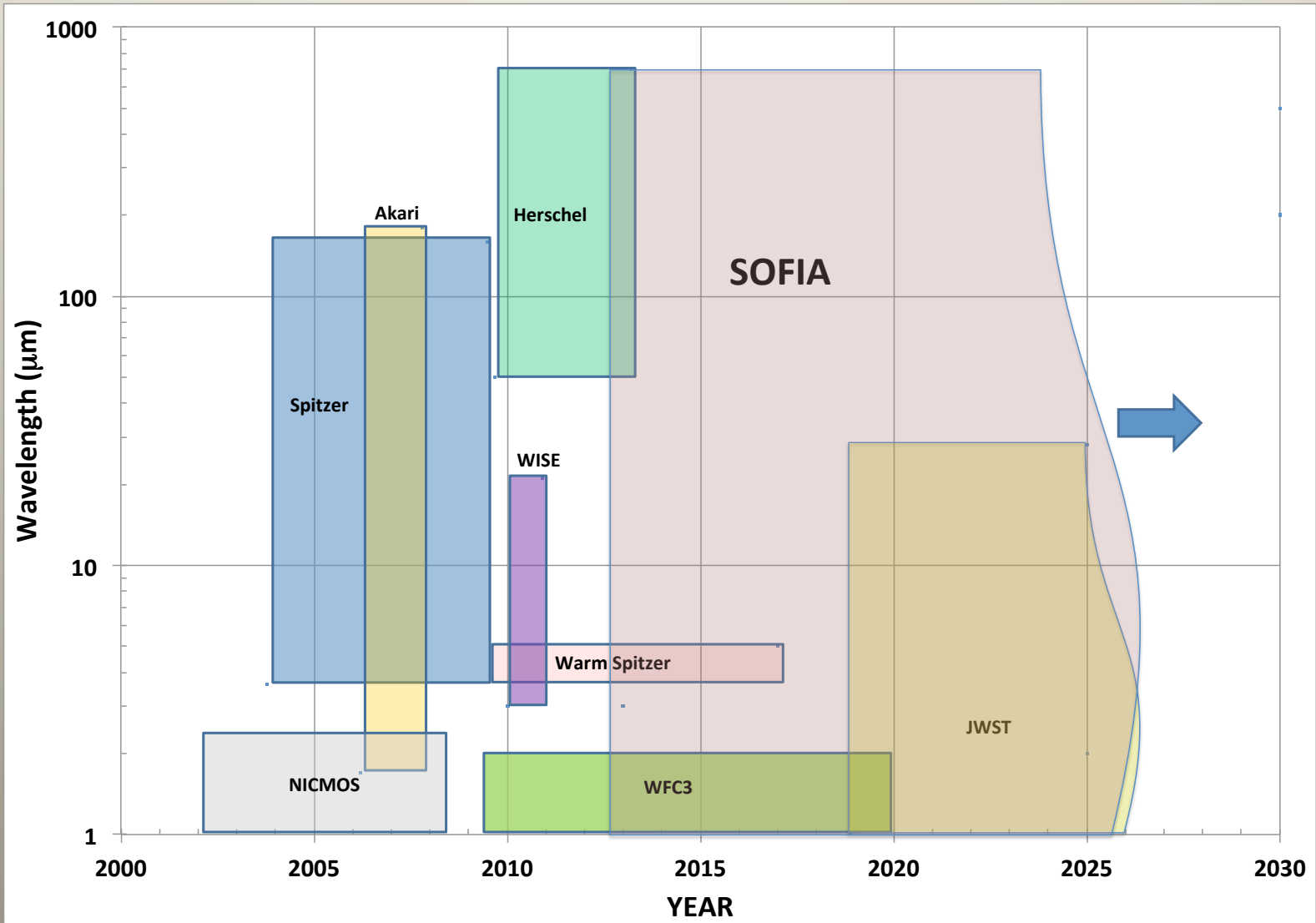
- Cycle 3 period: 1 March 2015 to 31 January 2016
 - Up to 450 hours offered for US Call for Proposals
 - Up to 50 hours offered for the German Call for Proposals
 - Wide range of instruments available
 - Southern Hemisphere deployment is being planned
 - Special allocation for larger proposals
 - Updates to CfP will be posted on 20 June 2014
- **Proposals are due 18 July 2014**

<http://www.sofia.usra.edu/Science/>





Infrared Mission Coverage



<http://www.sofia.usra.edu>

