

# SOFIA Community Task Force

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# Outline

1. The SOFIA Community Task Force (SCTF) and the SOFIA Users Group
2. Activities of the SCTF
3. Future directions

# Science Outreach

“This outreach effort should include educating the professional community about SOFIA’s capabilities, ... and in general increase the visibility of SOFIA and increase the community’s enthusiasm for the Program.”

*(Excerpt from the SMO statement of work document, July 2011)*

The mandate to appoint the SOFIA Users Group is in the same section of the statement of work document.

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**March - September 2012:** a few small changes and modifications to the procedure are introduced, but the agenda and functioning of the SCTF continue as they did a year ago.



## Functioning of the SCTF

The main forum for discussion of SCTF activities is a weekly telecon.

About every two weeks, the discussion part of the telecon is preceded by a teletalk. These are organized by Dan Lester.

The telecons (and teletalks) are open to anyone interested in SOFIA, but have been effectively restricted to the distribution list of about 80 people, most of whom have been involved with the project in one way or another.

The issues discussed at these telecons are followed up, as necessary, by SMO and SCTF members.

# Topics discussed at SCTF telecons

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## **Agenda for September 3 I:**

- 1) SCTF tele-talk, "GREAT Observations Reveal Strong Self-Absorption in [CII] 158 um Emission from NGC 3034", Urs Graf (Univ. of Cologne).
- 2) Project update.
- 3) SOFIA talks given at various institutions by SMO and SCTF members.
- 4) Recap of recently held SPIE meeting - Part II (Erick Young).
- 5) Watchlist discussion (file attached).

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. E. Becklin, E. Young, H. Zinnecker, P. Marcum and T. Roellig: initiate and maintain a discussion about a possible SOFIA Science Conference to be organized in the 2013-2014 timeframe.
2. All Participants: Keep a look out for meetings, conferences and workshops relevant to the SCTF, which are not currently on the watchlist, and let us know about them either during a telecon or by email.

# Principles

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2) The existing framework under which the SCTF operates should be maintained. Specifically, weekly telecons initiated by the project, and open to the community should continue.

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SCTF membership - define this more precisely in order to expand and maintain the external participation at an optimal level.

(What is an optimal level?)