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# Exclusive Use Period for Guest Investigator Data

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# Statement of the Issue

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- In order to increase scientific productivity of SOFIA, consider reducing the exclusive use (formerly known as “proprietary”) period for guest investigator data from 1 year to 6 months
- The question was posed to the SUG, which met by teleconference on 12 Apr 2016.
  - The advice of the SUG fed into the SOFIA program decision for how to address the issue in the Cycle 5 Call for Proposals
  - The following slides are a compilation of some of the SUG discussion



# Arguments in favor of reduction

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- Potential direct enhancement of science productivity:
  1. More rapid publication of results due to time pressure
  2. More data in archive for usage by wider community in publishing results and planning follow-up proposals.
- NASA headquarters in favor, and encourages a trend toward shorter or no proprietary periods
  - HST Treasury and Spitzer Legacy programs were highly successful and allowed no proprietary period
- JWST advisory group recently considered issue and was in FAVOR of reduction or proprietary to 6 months.



# Arguments against reduction

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- Same JWST advisory group found evidence that shorter proprietary periods do not speed publication
  - Median time to publish is 2 years, regardless
- Data reduction is sometimes complicated, in particular for goals other than just detecting a source
  - Takes time for the tools and ancillary information to be collected
- Resources and competency for analysis and publication are not instantly available
  - Students not instantly trained; postdocs not instantly hired
- Bilateral agreements between US and Germany state 1 yr
  - The agreements are amendable but have not yet been amended



# SOFIA Science Center Plan

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- Allow a voluntary reduction of “exclusive use” time as part of the proposal process
- Encourage proposers to take the voluntary waiver if they believe their observations to be potentially valuable for archival research, and make the corresponding instruction to the TAC to view such waivers favorably
- Especially encourage large proposals, which should generally be of archival value, to take the waiver, and instruct TAC accordingly
  - Large proposals may be surveys, which by definition are designed to be used by others
  - Large proposals focused on single topics require confirmation by independent analysis

