

Joint Observing Proposals with SOFIA

The IRTF has made an agreement for joint proposals with the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). This agreement allows users to apply for observing time with SOFIA via the IRTF proposal process or for time with IRTF via the SOFIA proposal process. Up to 20 hours of the total US GO time on SOFIA will be reserved for IRTF proposals received for the combined 2022B and 2023A semesters, and up to 5 nights of IRTF time will be reserved for proposals received by SOFIA for Observing Cycle 10.

Joint proposals should be submitted to the observatory that represents the primary science facility, not to both observatories. Joint proposals where the IRTF is the primary science facility should only be submitted in response to the IRTF 2022B and 2023A Call for Proposals; joint proposals where SOFIA is the primary science facility should only be submitted in response to the Cycle 10 Call for Proposals for SOFIA. Joint proposals MUST justify needing data from both telescopes in order to meet the science goals of the project. Simultaneous observations with both facilities are not required and are likely to be very challenging to schedule. Joint proposals must follow the same procedures for justifying duplicate or repeat observations and will be subject to the same technical and scheduling feasibility checks as other proposals received by both observatories. Proposals that duplicate observations already approved by SOFIA or IRTF for the same time period may be canceled, or data sharing and cooperation among different groups may be necessary, as determined by the two missions. The usual proprietary periods for each facility will apply to data acquired with that facility.

For joint IRTF/SOFIA proposals submitted in response to the IRTF 2022B and 2023A calls for proposals, the science justification must explain why data from both IRTF and SOFIA are required, but the proposal page limits remain at one page for text and one page for figures. The maximum length of the Technical Justification is increased to two pages, allowing room to provide separate details and requirements for each of the IRTF and SOFIA observations. When submitting the proposal, include the words "IRTF/SOFIA Proposal:" at the beginning of the Application Title.