German Cycle 2 proposals and brief GSSWG report

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• Cycle 2 Call for Proposals (CfP2) date issued: May 16, 2013  **German Cycle 2 proposal process**
• Proposal submission deadline: June 29, 2013 (22 proposals)
• Amount of GO German community time available: ~42 hrs (50% of the total, the other 50% go to the German PI teams)
• Oversubscription factor (in time) < 2 (down from Cycle 1). Reasons why – ironically – include greater GREAT sensitivity!

• TAC Meeting at DSI Stuttgart on Sept 17/18 (chair: D. Lemke, 6 panel members; each proposal 1 primary & 2 2nd reviewers)
• TAC recommendations discussed between SMO Director and SMO deputy director & DSI director to settle any TAC issues

• TAC results notification letters sent to applicants: 31 Oct 2013 (published on DSI website)
• Because of the small oversubscription, most proposals (85%) were accepted and stand a good chance to be executed.

• 3 categories (A,B,C) of SMO accepted proposals (unlike US)

  A  =  MUST DO, 6 proposals (13.5 hrs)
  B  =  SHOULD DO, 6 proposals (21.6 hrs)
  C  =  DO IF TIME, 6 proposals (9.3 hrs)

  D  =  FILLER, 1 proposal
      DON’T DO, 3 proposals (two of which were unschedulable)

Of the accepted proposals the vast majority is for GREAT (11),
2 for FLIPO, 1 for FLITECAM, 1 for FORCAST, 2 for FIFI–LS 3 SV

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Lessons learnt from the German Cycle 2 TAC process

- Olympic voting works, but best German grades systematically lower than those in the US (both grades range from 5 to 1)
- TAC grades don’t always match with TAC written comments
- Mapping numerical grades into Observatory categories: DSI found it useful to have 3 accepted proposal categories but which fraction of the accepted proposals in which category is worth discussing (in particular which fraction = MUST DO?)
- SMO had to reject two meritorious proposals (comet ISON and TNO proposal), as they turned out to be impossible to schedule
- Outreach sometimes mentioned in a proposal, sometimes not
- Difficulty for German queue to do technical evaluation in August (summer holiday period) German TAC always later than US
Questions to the SUG (advice)

• What would be considered an acceptable flight success rate? 90%? (that is, is 1 lost flight out of 10 on average acceptable)

• SMO suggestion to carry over lost MUST DO proposals. Yes?

• SMO suggestion to shift cycle from Jan–Dec to March–Feb? If so, should we keep the proposal deadline (now end of June)?

• Should outreach component in a proposal be a TAC criterion?
Brief report from the last GSSWG Meeting

- Participants: Stutzki (chair), Colditz, Eisloeffel, Graf, Guesten, Krabbe (DSI) Himmes (DLR), Lilienthal (DLR), Zinnecker (SMO)

- Topics discussed (a somewhat biased selection of the agenda)
  - DLR/DSI contract till 12/2016 (signed that very day of Sept 10)
  - May 2013 observing schedule before HMV (G.C. time, GREAT)
  - Germany borrowing 4 extra flights from US in Cycle 2 (10 14
  - SOFIA presentation at 2014 Feb 5 DLR “Programmausschuss”
  - SOFIA winterschool in Cologne Feb 10–14, 2014 (web, poster)
  - 7 LMC/SMC GREAT science projects during deployment
End