Guest Investigator and Guaranteed Time Observer Funding

William T. Reach

SOFIA Users Group #7
April 2015
Importance of Grants (in Another Field)

Recommendation: A Regime Shift

The resounding message of the DSOS report is clear. There must be an immediate regime shift in funding from facilities toward investigator-based core science.

Facilities are useless if you cannot provide grants for scientists to use them.

This call deserves strong community support. The report points out the importance of the three major facilities in relation to addressing the research priorities and to the research careers of scientists who depend on these facilities. It is also true, however, that these same scientists and many others depend on science grants to

Earth & Space Science News, 2015 March
Regarding the Decadal Survey of Ocean Science
Funding for Guest Investigators

• The SOFIA program has provided approximately $3k per hour of accepted observations to guest investigators
  – We are requesting a significant increase in this amount

• A not-too-detailed budget is requested after proposal acceptance

• Some funding is made available upon acceptance of proposals (to help cover costs of preparing Phase 2)

• The balance of the grant is provided when the first observations for the program are placed into a flight schedule
Funding for Guaranteed Time Observers

- During the development phase, the Science Instrument teams are funded using contracts. Planning for guaranteed time and early utilization of it, is considered part of the instrument development.
- After acceptance of the science instrument, the science instrument teams have been funded on extended contracts, with same concept as above.
- After extended contracts (or acceptance, if no extended contract), there is no contractual funding. The Science Center proposes to fund the remaining Guaranteed Time using grants with the same funding rate as applies to Guest Investigators.