

SOFIA DATA CENTER USER GROUP (SDC-UG)

CHARTER

Version 1.4, March 13, 2026

The SOFIA Data Center User Group (SDC-UG) is an advisory body of the SOFIA Data Center (SDC) dedicated to optimizing the preparation of SOFIA observational data for subsequent scientific analysis and ensuring its availability to the research community in a suitable format.

1. TASKS

The SDC-UG advises the SDC in areas such as, but not limited to:

- Project structure with the aim of achieving an optimal scientific yield,
- Identification of potentially valuable scientific datasets that remain unanalyzed and facilitation of their dissemination within the scientific community, and
- Services provided by the SDC in the VO-API and the online portal.

To this end, the SDC-UG is in close contact with the SDC and involves the German scientific community interested in SOFIA observational data in the development of recommendations for the SDC. This relates in particular to the following points:

- i) Documentation of the astronomical SOFIA data in the SDC archive,
- ii) Reprocessing of astronomical data and enhancement of their scientific value,
- iii) Organization and presentation of SOFIA data in the VO-API and the online portal,
- iv) Support of the community with guidance and training in data analysis.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The SDC-UG is composed of

- a) Representatives of the scientific community with experience with at least one of the SOFIA scientific instruments EXES, FIFI-LS, FORCAST, FPI+, GREAT or HAWC+,
- b) Representatives of the scientific community with a general interest in scientific work in the far-infrared wavelength range,
- c) Up to two community members proposed by the Rat deutscher Sternwarten (RdS).

The members are appointed by the SDC after consultation with the SDC-UG.

The members elect a speaker from among their number.

Members may be represented by another representative from their institute.

Travel expenses must be borne by the members from the funds of their institutes.

3. MEETINGS

- The SDC-UG meets regularly - at least twice a year. If necessary, meetings can also be convened at short notice (via video conference) between the aforementioned regular meetings in consultation with the members.
- The speaker of the SDC-UG sends out the invitation and the draft agenda in good time, but no later than one week before the agreed meeting dates.
- Participants are members of the SDC-UG, the SDC project management, other members of the SDC, the VO Expert from Heidelberg, and the representative of the GREAT Archive in Cologne.
- Guests can be invited for selected topics. The invitation is issued by the speaker.
- The SDC reports to the SDC-UG on the status of the SDC project and specifically on the areas of responsibility of the SDC-UG listed under "1. Tasks".
- The SDC project management can be asked for information/statements. In particular on those aspects that directly affect the above-mentioned responsibilities of the SDC-UG.
- The minutes of the meetings are recorded and should generally be available as a draft within one week. Responsibility for taking the minutes is organized between the members.
- In addition to the recommendations, the minutes should also contain rationales and important discussion points. The SDC project management reports to the SDC-UG on the implementation of the recommendations.

4. TIMEFRAME

The existence of the SDC-UG appointed in accordance with this charter is bound to the duration of the SDC project, i.e. until June 30, 2029 (as of March 2025).

This charter becomes effective on March 13, 2026.

ANNEX 1 to the Charter of the SOFIA Data Center User Group:

The confirmed members of SDC-UG as of March 13, 2026 are as follows:

a.) Representatives of the science community with a focus on SOFIA instruments:

Dr. Jochen Eislöffel	TLS, Tautenburg (FORCAST)
Dr. Guido Fuchs, Co-Chair	Universität Kassel (EXES)
Dr. Le Ngoc Tram	Leiden University, MPIfR Bonn (HAWC+)
Dr. Verena Wolf, Chair	TLS, Tautenburg (FIFI-LS)
Dr. Friedrich Wyrowski	MPIfR Bonn (GREAT)

b.) Representatives of the science community:

Dr. Christof Buchbender	Universität zu Köln (CCAT Data Center Manager)
Prof. Dr. Arshia Jacob	Universität zu Köln
Dr. Helmut Wiesemeyer	MPIfR Bonn (nominated by RdS)
Dr. Robert Simon	Universität zu Köln (nominated by RdS)
Dr. Ralf Siebenmorgen	ESO (Cosmic Dust Expert)

Additional participants in SDC-UG Meetings:

Dr. Markus Demleitner	ARI, Universität Heidelberg, VO-Expert
Dr. Juan Luis Verbena	GREAT Archive, Universität zu Köln
Dr. Benjamin Greiner	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, DB-System Architect
Michael Hütwohl	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, Project Management
Dr. Christof Iserlohe	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, QA-Astronomical DB
Dr. Thomas Keilig	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, Project Administration
Prof. Dr. Alfred Krabbe	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, FIFI-LS Prime Investigator
Dr. Bernhard Schulz	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, Project Scientist
Dr. Manuel Wiedemann	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, Instrument Scientist
Dr. Oliver Zeile	SDC, Universität Stuttgart, Telescope Scientist

Revision History

Version #	Issue Date	Changes to previous version
V1.0	12.03.2025	Initial Version issued by SDC management team prior to SDC-UG constitutive meeting
V1.1	13.03.2025	Minor changes to the wording in all chapters. Version released by the SDC-UG during the constitutive meeting on March 13, 2026. Dr. Verena Wolf and Dr. Guido Fuchs are nominated and confirmed by the members as chair and co-chair of the SDC-UG.
V1.2	15.09.2025	Dr. Helmut Wiesemeyer und Dr. Robert Simon nominated as SDC-UG participants by the RdS.
V1.3	24.09.2025	Dr. Ralf Siebenmorgen joined the SDC-UG as cosmic dust expert. Prof. Dr. Sebastian Wolf resigned from his position as a member of the SDC-UG.
V1.4	13.03.2026	Dr. Silvia Spezzano resigned from her position as a member of the SDC-UG. Prof. Dr. Arshia Jacob joined the SDC-UG as her replacement.