HST Cycle 27 Mid-Cycle Time Submission

Up to 150 orbits per cycle will be available for Mid-Cycle GO programs in Cycle 27. Mid-Cycle programs were initiated in Cycle 23 to provide the community with an opportunity to propose for in-cycle observations of recently-discovered, non-transient objects. As such, they complement Director’s Discretionary programs, which target unexpected transient phenomena and time-critical observations.

Mid-Cycle GO Proposals must meet the following prime criteria:

1. Proposers must provide an explanation of why the proposal could not have been submitted in response to previous Calls for Proposals: for example, the target may have been identified subsequent to the most recent relevant proposal deadline.
2. Proposers must provide a clear description of the scientific urgency of these observations and why they should be executed in the present cycle.

Please note: Mid-Cycle time proposals must now be submitted and will be reviewed in an anonymous format. The review process is similar to that used in HST Cycle 27 Anonymous Proposal Reviews, except the review of the team expertise will be done internally by the Science Policies Group. There is no need to submit a separate Team Expertise and Background document.

Proposers can see the past MidCycle programs that have been approved. This list is updated after the results of each Review have been made public.

Proposals should be submitted via the Astronomer’s Proposal Tool (APT) as type GO, using the Mid-Cycle template for the pdf attachment. Upon completion of your Mid-Cycle submission, your program will be transferred to the STScI for processing. If you run into problems submitting an Mid-Cycle Request, Contact the STScI HST Help Desk web: https://hsthelp.stsci.edu for a quicker response, or send email to help@stsci.edu for investigation/resolution.

Proposals for Mid-Cycle time must be sufficiently detailed for adequate evaluation, comparable with proposals submitted for the regular observing cycles as described in the current Call for Proposals. Among other things,

- Both the proposed observations and the use of Mid-Cycle time must be justified explicitly,
- There must be an adequate description of how the proposed observations relate to the current state of knowledge,
- And the proposed observations must be described in sufficient detail to allow technical evaluation.

Mid-Cycle GO proposals will have the following characteristics:

- Proposals are limited to requesting no more than 15 orbits;
- Observations should have minimal constraints to maximize scheduling flexibility-- Target of Opportunity proposals may not be submitted as Mid-Cycle Proposals;
- Observations taken for accepted programs will have a proprietary period of no more than 3 months;
- Proposals may request only HST time - joint proposals are not permitted;
• Proposers may apply for all available instruments. Proposals must be compliant with the technical restrictions described in the most recent Call for Proposals.
• Page limits are the same as Regular GO Small proposals.

Please also note that Mid-Cycle proposers may select any of the HST Cycle 27 Special Initiatives for their proposal. JWST Preparatory Observations will, by default, not have a proprietary period (default of zero months).

**Review Process and Schedule**

Members of the STScI Science Policies Group will undertake an initial review of GO Mid-Cycle proposals to determine whether the proposals meet prime criterion #1. Proposals that do not meet that criterion will not be distributed for further review; the Principal Investigator will be informed of that decision, and is free to submit the proposal at the next standard cycle deadline. Re-submissions of rejected past cycle proposals will be rejected automatically.

Mid-Cycle proposals will receive scientific review by members of the community who have contributed to recent HST TAC reviews. Each proposal will be distributed to four reviewers.

Mid-Cycle proposals may be submitted at any time. Proposals received **by January 17, 2020** will be considered for implementation in the March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 time-frame.

Reviewers are required to address the following issues:

1. The scientific merit of the proposed investigation and its potential contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge – grade 1-5;
2. The program’s importance to astronomy in general – grade 1-5;
3. The scientific urgency of the observations and their suitability for a Mid-Cycle proposal – grade 1-5;
4. The program science goals can only be achieved by observations with Hubble Space Telescope – yes/no.

Grades are as follows:

1. - Excellent
2. - Very Good
3. - Good
4. - Fair
5. - Poor

Reviewers are also required to provide brief text feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal, and a rationale for their grades.

The STScI Science Policy group will collect the reviews and rank order the proposals. The Director will make the final selection of proposals to be awarded time.

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<th>Summary of APT Required Items</th>
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Abstract
Category
Cycle
Primary orbits
Parallel orbits
Exclusive Access (Proprietary) Period. Mid-cycle programs generally have a 3-month exclusive access period.

Scientific Category
Science Keywords
Justification PDF Attachment

Investigator information

• Full address for PI and limited information for CoIs

Observation information

• Target Name, Coordinates, Magnitude
• Configuration
• Science Mode
• Spectral Elements
• Total Orbits
• Observation Flags

Proposal Justification Information (see also HST Cycle 27 Anonymous Proposal Reviews for more information on the review process. Guidelines are provided on how to anonymize a proposal.
• Rationale for Mid-Cycle time: Explain why Mid-Cycle time is required; i.e., why the proposal was not submitted to the most recent TAC, or why the proposal cannot wait until the next TAC for evaluation.
• Scientific Justification: Provide a scientific justification to allow for scientific evaluation.
• Description of Observations: Provide a description of the proposed observations. Explain the amount of exposure time and number of orbits requested (e.g., number of objects, examples of exposure-time calculations and orbit estimations for some typical observations, etc.). Explicitly describe any non-standard calibration requirements and observations.
• Scheduling Requirements: Provide any special scheduling requirements (such as required and desired execution windows, special orientation or background requirements, and time links to HST or other observations) to allow for scheduling impact assessment. For minimum schedule disruption, STScI requires that all observing information be submitted at least 2 months prior to execution, in cases where this is possible.

Related Links