

Observing with SIRTf, Opportunities for the Scientific Community Participation

MarieJose Deutsch (NASA/JPL)

Abstract.

The Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTf) is the last of the four "Great Observatories". It consists of a .85 meter telescope and three cryogenically cooled science instruments. The instruments are capable of observing in the near infrared, 3 - 180micron range and provide for imaging, photometry as well as spectroscopy. The detector arrays offer orders of magnitude improvements in capability. SIRTf will travel in a heliocentric orbit trailing the Earth, allowing for a warm launch with only the instruments being cooled by the cryogen. This orbit also enables high observing efficiency. From 75-80% of observing time is reserved for Legacy Science Projects and Guest Observers programs. This will place a large amount of data into the public domain early and provides for a process open to all scientists and all science topics. SIRTf will launch in December 2001, with an anticipated lifetime of 5 years. SIRTf is part of NASA's Origins program and is managed for NASA by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), California Institute of Technology.

NOTE: The SIRTf presentation consists of a synthesized set of viewgraphs and information available on the project web page <http://ssc.ipac.caltech.edu/sirtf/index.html>