

Deep 12 and 25 Micron Imaging with the Wide Field Infrared Explorer

Carol J. Lonsdale

The Wide Field Infrared Explorer is a new NASA Small Explorer class observatory to be launched in late 1998. It will survey hundreds of square degrees of high latitude sky in the mid-infrared 12 and 25 micron bands to flux densities up to a factor of 1000 better than IRAS. The goals are to determine what fraction of the luminosity of the Universe at redshift above 0.5 is due to starburst galaxies, determine the evolutionary history of starburst galaxies, and search for infrared-luminous protogalaxies. It will also be an important survey tool for infrared-bright AGN.
