

Preliminary Results from ISO: US Guaranteed Time Projects

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First results are reported from the four "Key Projects" carried out under the US Guaranteed Time on ISO,

The *Dust Debris Around Solar Mass Stars* project (Becklin et al.) is using the advanced capabilities of ISO to study the dust disks discovered by IRAS, and to search for additional examples in 150 nearby stars. A major objective is to address the evolution of dust disks around stars with masses comparable to the Sun

The *Birth and Death of Planetary Systems* project (R. Stencel et al.) pursues the determination of the statistics of occurrence of Vega-like disk phenomena by surveying carefully selected samples. It also maps twelve bright cases of dust disk extensions, and surveys material possibly located in the Kuiper belt selected from the COBE survey.

The *Interstellar Medium of Normal Galaxies* projects (G. Helou et al.) is observing about 60 galaxies with infrared spectroscopy and infrared imaging, in order to derive the physical parameters of their interstellar dust, gas and radiation fields. The goal is to study the galaxy-wide star formation process to identify its drivers and inhibitors.

The *Far-Infrared to X-Ray Continua of Quasars* project (Wilkes et al.) surveys a representative sample of 95 quasars and active galactic nuclei at wavelengths between 5 and 200 μm . The data will be used to address the properties and nature of the infrared emission, compare the infrared spectrum to detailed models of quasars, in particular testing the "unified model" of quasars.