

Project Scientist's Discretionary Observing Time

There are two types of unscheduled observing time that can be made available at the discretion of the Project Scientist. The first deals with major targets of opportunity, such as novae or comets, for which approved observing programs are already in effect. When such targets appear, the Project Scientist will consult with the approved observers and determine how much observing time should be devoted to the particular event under discussion.

The second type of discretionary observing time is intended for short observing projects for which no approved observing program exists. Normally, of course, proposals for such projects will be held for consideration during the next proposal review cycle. However, in those cases where the observation is required by a certain date or where the scientific importance of the project is so great that it should be done quickly, the Project Scientist may approve observing time upon receipt of an informal letter proposal describing the observation and the scientific objective, and explaining why discretionary observing time should be granted rather than waiting until the next proposal cycle. Since the total amount of discretionary time is limited, only projects that can be accomplished in one or two observing shifts are likely to be approved. All requests for discretionary time will be considered, but if at all possible they should be in the Project Scientist's hands before the final schedule for the month of observation has been issued. In judging a late request, the objections from scheduled observers who would be pre-empted will be taken into consideration.

Albert Boggess
IUE Project Scientist