

Management of future open programs on SPICA

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A possible scheme based on the existing tools

1. Time is granted by the CHARA director to an open-time program with SPICA (open time could mean collaboration time or NOAO time)
2. A JMMC account is created for the PI.
3. Through the DFQS, the PI provides the list of targets + the 'classical' minimum information (as for the programs of the survey).
4. The list is approved by SPICA authorities, a SPICA number is given, and the targets receive a spicadb_id.
5. Observations for this program are included in the general queue of the SPICA survey. A specific priority could be set to guarantee the execution within the semester (probably at the NSS level).
6. Processed data are available through OIDB

But...

1. We have defined a restricted number of observing modes for the programs of the survey. Is it enough?
2. The specificity of the program in terms of observing strategy is not easily considered. This could be balanced if specific observing modes are added in the spica database (for example as a list of predefined OBs).
3. The choice of calibrators is not done by the PI (could be balanced by specific information given in the comments)
4. Preparation and execution of observations do not involve the PI (could be balanced if a specific date is assigned).
5. PI is not involved in the data processing (could be balanced if the raw data and the pipeline are accessible → Atlanta facility?)
6. Sharing of night? Follow-up of time allocation?

Open questions

- Should we consider specific nights for open programs? If yes could these nights be managed by the CHARA staff? (after training and with remote assistance if needed)
- What are the lessons learned from the first years of MIRCX/MYSTIC with a large number of programs?
- Interest to adapt/clone the NSS with the possibility of accessing to additional catalogs separated from the survey catalog? Is there an interest for a more general NSS tool for CHARA? How to progress on this?
- In any case a clear update of SPICA observing modes is needed in ASPRO2 to facilitate the 'external' preparation of programs. *It is important to note that the NSS is NOT required for doing a SPICA observation!*