



Astrophysics Division Update

March 10, 2011



- NASA requests a plan for implementing a Wide Field Infrared Survey telescope (WFIRST) mission. The SDT has been chartered to consider the best way to proceed with the WFIRST mission.
- The preliminary DRM to be completed by June should be based on the recommendations identified in NWNH.
- If the SDT and WFIRST Project believe that there are compelling mission concepts that deviate from addressing all of the WFIRST science investigations recommended in NWNH, but at a substantial savings in LCC, then those concepts could be represented in the June interim report or described in a subsequent report.
- NASA may submit a WFIRST development plan to OMB in a future budget planning cycle. The next cycle will be fall 2011. NASA will consider the preliminary DRM developed by the SDT and WFIRST Project as a basis for future planning.
- While NASA and the Administration have expressed interest in a possible joint mission with international partners, initial planning discussions with potential international partners will not be resolved until at least the fall of this year.

- FY 2012 President's Budget Request released February 14, 2011:
 - Support for mission concept planning and technology development relevant to the survey's highest priority Large space mission: Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST). NASA is also exploring a potential partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA) on its proposed Euclid dark energy mission consistent with Option B (A Joint WFIRST/Euclid Mission) from the National Research Council's "Report of the Panel on Implementing Recommendations from the New Worlds, New Horizons Decadal Survey."