SOFIA Platform Available For Ride-Along Research

Ames Research Center

Readiness level:
☐ TRL 1-3: Concept
☐ TRL 4-6: Prototype
☑ TRL 7-9: Demonstrated

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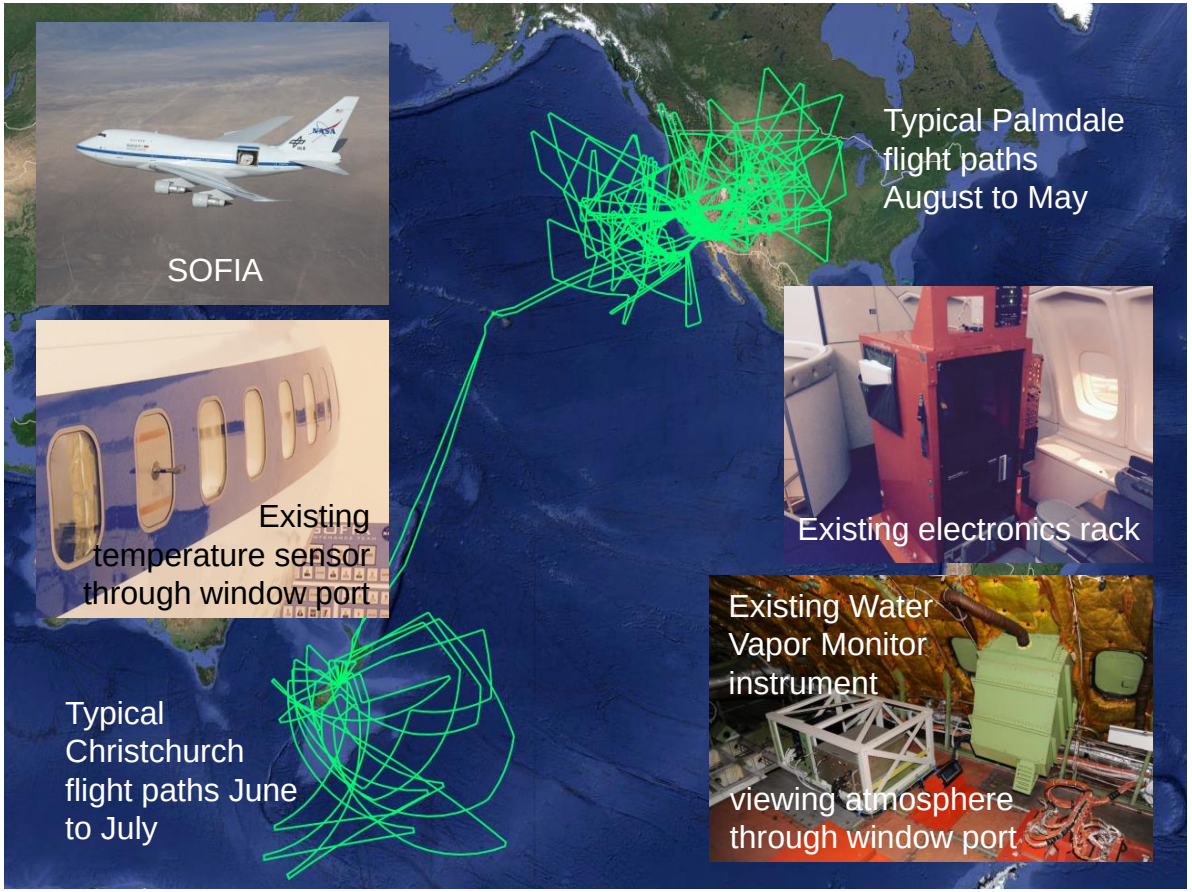
Technology / Application

Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy Platform available for Ride-Along Research

SOFIA is a 747SP with a 2.7m astronomical infrared telescope that can accommodate research instruments that do not interfere with astronomical observations

- **Flies over 100 ten hour night flights each year**
- **Operates out of Palmdale California and Christchurch New Zealand (June/July)**
- **Flight altitudes between 39,000 ft. and 45,000 ft.**
- **Flight times, days, paths, and altitudes are fixed by observatory operations and typically not adjustable**
- **Window ports can be replaced with custom instrumentation**
- **Instrument operators can be flown**
- **Instrument accommodations are negotiable**
- **Air sampling and both side and nadir viewing directions possible**



Funding / Timeline

- SOFIA is fully operational and funded.
- Non-SOFIA flight participants must fund all costs associated with integration, air-worthiness, unique operations, etc.
- Non-SOFIA flight participants and equipment can not interfere with SOFIA operations.

POC

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