Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

Cycle 1 General Investigator Program
Call for Proposals

Issued by the
Roman Science Support Center
California Institute of Technology / IPAC
Pasadena, California, USA

Key Dates:
Call for Proposals Issued: December 10, 2025
Proposals Due: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 (5:00pm PDT)

https://roman-docs.ipac.caltech.edu/roman-proposals-home/cycle-1-call-for-proposals

Cycle 1 Call for Proposals

Executive Summary

This *Call for Proposals* invites investigators to submit proposals to conduct scientific investigations with the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. The entirety of Roman data have no exclusive use period and will be released publicly after pipeline processing through the Barbara A. Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST). The Roman General Investigator Program solicits proposals to analyze Roman Wide Field Instrument (WFI) data, request new General Astrophysics Surveys with WFI, conduct theoretical investigations, and/or conduct analyses of publicly accessible ancillary data with direct relevance to Roman science.

During the course of the five-year prime mission, we anticipate issuing five annual calls for proposals for most types of investigations, with three of the calls containing solicitations for new Roman observations: Cycles 1, 3, and 4 (subject to change). Approximately 30 General Astrophysics Survey (GAS) programs in total will be supported during the prime mission. In Cycle 1, up to six new GAS programs will be selected for a combined total of no more than 1200 hours of Roman observing time. These observations will primarily be scheduled within the first two years of the mission, but some may be scheduled later to accommodate scheduling constraints or science needs.

All proposals must be submitted electronically to the Science Support Center at IPAC using the Roman Telescope Proposal System (RTPS) website. **For Cycle 1, the proposal due date is Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 5:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time.**

Proposal Planning

This Call provides an overview of Roman's technical capabilities, survey data products, research support, and information on proposal preparation and proposal submission procedure. Important proposal tools and documentation include the Roman Telescope Proposal System (RTPS), the Exposure Time Calculator (ETC), the Roman Astronomer's Proposal Tool (APT), and the Roman Documentation (RDox). Additional proposal submission assistance is available through the Roman Help Desk. Proposers should use RTPS (and APT version 2025.6.3 or later, where applicable) to submit their proposals.

Proposal Submission

Proposals should include the following elements:

- A Science Justification PDF:
  - A justification for the scientific rationale of the project.
  - An analysis plan that details the path to science, including a detailed description of any Roman data to be analyzed such as the number of spectral elements and sky coverage in square degrees.
  - An implementation plan that describes the compute resources requested (if applicable), dissemination of results, and a high-level description of how the funds will be utilized.
  - If requesting observing time: A technical justification describing how the observations will be implemented, including an explanation of field selection, observing modes, exposure time estimates, and target duplication (if applicable).
- A Team Expertise document providing a description of the expertise, background, and roles of key team members as they relate to the project proposed.
- If requesting observing time: A file generated by APT that provides a detailed specification of Roman observations.

All proposals should be submitted to the Roman Science Support Center (SSC) at IPAC electronically, using the RTPS proposal submission tool. Proposals must conform to all the requirements and constraints described in this Call, including the Dual Anonymous Peer Review (DAPR) guidelines for the Science Justification PDF and the format and page limits listed in Proposal Templates. Proposals must be received by the due date and time indicated above. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Submission Policies

This solicitation is for proposals to the Roman General Investigator program. Each proposal must identify a single individual who will serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) and will be responsible for the scientific and administrative conduct of the project. There is no limit to the number of Co-Investigators (Co-Is) that may appear on a proposal. PIs based at a foreign institution can choose to designate a US-based co-PI for the administration of funding. The PI may also designate a Technical Contact for purposes of communications about technical topics with the Roman science operations team.

The program is open to investigators of any nationality or institutional affiliation. However, proposals involving only investigators based in the People's Republic of China (PRC) or involving only PRC-based and U.S. investigators are subject to the NASA restriction on bilateral activity with China (see Section 1340 of the Public Law 112-10). Such investigations, whether funded or performed under a no-exchange-of-funds basis, shall be ineligible for award. See the PRC-related Frequently Answered Questions for further details. For purposes of this provision, Taiwan is not considered part of the PRC; however, Hong Kong is.

There is no restriction on career level for who may serve as the Principal Investigator of a proposal. If the Principal Investigator is not eligible to administer funds at their institution, they must designate a co-PI for administration of funding.

Proposal Review

Topical Science Review Panels and a Time Allocation Committee (TAC) organized by the SSC will adopt the DAPR process and evaluate the proposals based primarily on scientific merit and relevance to Roman capabilities. The TAC will recommend a list of programs to the Roman Selection Official at the Project Science Office, who will select the final list of approved programs for Cycle 1. Upon selection by the Roman Selection Official, programs that request new Roman observations will be entered into the Roman Planning and Scheduling Database for implementation of observations that will commence in January 2027, assuming a September 2026 launch. Pending the availability of NASA funds, funding for approved programs will be issued once the cycle begins.

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Mission Overview

This section briefly summarizes the scientific capabilities of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope.

***Note**: The content of the Call represents the known ground characterization of the observatory performance through October 2025. It is anticipated that improved and/or additional technical performance specifications will be available over the next few months, pending analysis of data obtained during integration and testing of the Roman hardware. For the latest information, please refer to the Late Breaking News.*

Introduction

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is a NASA space telescope that observes at visible and infrared wavelengths and is designed to tackle questions in the areas of dark energy, exoplanets, and general astrophysics. Roman has a primary mirror that is 2.4 meters in diameter (the same size as Hubble's) and has two instruments, the Wide Field Instrument and the Coronagraph Instrument. The Wide Field Instrument is the main survey instrument having a field of view 200 times larger than Hubble's infrared view. Roman is slated to launch no later than May 2027, with the team working toward a potential early launch as soon as September 2026.

Science Payload

The Roman Space Telescope science payload has two instruments, the Wide Field Instrument and the Coronagraph Instrument, integrated with the telescope via the instrument carrier. The Coronagraph Instrument is a technology demonstration for an exoplanet imaging instrument on a future space-based observatory, and is thus not part of the General Investigator program in Cycle 1 and is not discussed any further in this document.

The telescope has a three mirror anastigmat design, providing good optical performance over a wide field of view.

The Wide Field Instrument (WFI) is a 300.8-megapixel camera providing multiband visible to near-infrared (0.48 to 2.30 um) imaging using eight filters. A HgCdTe-based focal-plane array captures a 0.28 square degree field of view with a pixel size of 0.11 arcseconds x 0.11 arcseconds. The detector array is composed of eighteen 4096x4096 pixel detectors. It also carries both high-dispersion grism (1.00 to 1.91 um) and low-dispersion prism (0.76 to 1.80 um) assemblies for wide-field slitless spectroscopy.

Additional technical details about the science instrument are found on the Instrument section of RDox.

Observatory

Derived positional accuracies are expected to be better than 1 milliarcsecond for well-detected sources. The observatory was designed to be stiff and thermally stable to provide excellent pointing stability better than 0.008 arcsec, with jitter remaining below 0.014 arcsec. The fact that the observatory is both light and stiff means that the observatory is particularly well-suited to executing short slews needed to map out large regions of the sky, settling within 10 seconds following a slew.

Orbit / Sky Visibility

The Roman Space Telescope will be in a quasi-halo orbit around the second Sun–Earth Lagrange point (L2). In this orbit, the telescope is in a benign thermal environment. Moreover, this choice of orbit substantially reduces the projection of the Sun–Earth–Moon avoidance zones on the sky, yielding high astronomical observing efficiencies.

The telescope's instantaneous visibility region is a 72-degree wide annulus, extending from 54° to 126° in solar elongation, and encompassing all ecliptic latitudes. The observatory must point more than 54° away from the sun and antisun directions. About 59% of the entire sky is accessible to Roman at any given time.

The amount of time that any particular target is visible to Roman is a function of ecliptic latitude. Objects located more than 54 degrees away from the ecliptic plane are within the Continuous Viewing Zone. Additional information on target visibility and available roll angles can be found in the WFI Quick Reference.

Observing Modes

In Cycle 1, Roman Space Telescope WFI observations will be executed with any of ten distinct optical elements (one of the imaging passband filters, the grism, or the prism). Observers specify their observations through the Roman APT. These specifications for a given target form a sequence of observations called a segment. Multiple optical elements can be used in a segment, together with various mosaicing and dither/subpixel dither pattern combinations and integration times and repeats. The segments and passes can be combined to form a survey.

The Roman observing modes are listed below. Details about these observing modes and the available choice of APT parameters are provided on RDox. The two observing modes available for Cycle 1 observational programs are:

- WFI Imaging
- WFI Spectroscopy

Because the processing of WFI slitless spectroscopic data requires images of the same field, Cycle 1 requests for grism or prism observations must include imaging in at least one Roman filter; two or more filters and roll angles are highly recommended for optimal results. Observers requesting grism or prism observations of the Core Community Surveys (CCS) planned to be executed in the first cycle and with no or limited spectroscopic data planned as part of the survey (the High Latitude Time Domain or Galactic Plane Survey) do not need to include additional imaging for spectroscopic extraction purposes, providing the imaging data of the CCS meets the technical and scientific needs of the proposal. See the Roman Observations section for more details. Recommendations for combined imaging and spectroscopic observation requests can be found on the Science Data Pipelines section of RDox.

The project will be verifying observatory capabilities and pointing stabilities and performance during commissioning, including the ability of WFI to guide in spectroscopic mode when observing crowded fields.

Science Operations

An integrated team of personnel from the Roman Project Science Office (PSO) at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), the Science Support Center (SSC) at Caltech/IPAC, and the Science Operations Center (SOC) at Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) conduct science operations for the Roman project. Mission operations activities are conducted out of the Mission Operations Center at GSFC. The SSC solicits analysis and observational research programs through Calls for Proposals, organizes the peer review and proposal selection process, and administers NASA research funds for investigations selected by the Roman Selecting Official from PSO. The SOC schedules all Roman observations, calibrates the WFI data (the level of the calibration depends on the mode and core community survey), and archives and distributes all the Roman Space Telescope data through the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST). The SSC is responsible for high-level processing and calibration of all WFI spectroscopy mode data, along with high-level data processing of the data from the Galactic Bulge Time Domain Survey. The SOC also provides a cloud-based science platform, the Roman Research Nexus, that gives the community access to a rich computing environment, while allowing a low barrier access to data, compute, and software resources.

Roman Observations

This page provides useful information for General Investigators preparing proposals, with references to the Core Community Surveys (CCS) and the first General Astrophysics Survey (GAS), the Roman Galactic Plane Survey. It includes brief summaries of each survey along with links to the dedicated pages where they are described in more detail.

Core Community Surveys

Three Core Community Surveys (CCS) have been defined by three committees through a process that solicited broad input from the astronomical community. The goal of this process was to arrive at a set of core surveys that would enable a broad range of astrophysical investigations while meeting Roman's scientific mission requirements in cosmology and exoplanet demographics. The three Core Community Surveys are the High-Latitude Wide-Area Survey, the High-Latitude Time-Domain Survey, and the Galactic Bulge Time-Domain Survey. As all Roman data will be publicly available, the large volume of data produced by these surveys will enable many and different scientific investigations and it is expected that a large fraction of Roman users will interact primarily, or exclusively, with Roman's data archive using the CCS data through analysis proposals solicited in this and future calls.

High-Latitude Wide-Area Survey

Roman's High-Latitude Wide-Area Survey (HLWAS) will deliver high-resolution imaging and slitless grism spectroscopy with unprecedented area, resolution, and depth. Observations will be conducted throughout Roman's five-year prime mission. The HLWAS is a multitiered imaging and spectroscopic program that will map ~5,100 deg^2, or about 12% of the sky. The HLWAS enables comprehensive, multiprobe constraints on dark energy and dark matter, leveraging weak lensing, baryon acoustic oscillations, redshift-space distortions, galaxy clustering, and strong gravitational lensing. The HLWAS will also enable a wide variety of scientific investigations from the study of solar system objects, to stars and stellar systems in the Milky Way and nearby galaxies, to star-forming and active galaxies and quasars in the early Universe. More information about the HLWAS is available at this RDox page.

High-Latitude Time-Domain Survey

Roman's High-Latitude Time-Domain Survey (HLTDS) provides time-series photometry and slitless spectroscopy at HST-like resolution and sensitivity across tens of deg^2, obtaining multi-band color information and spectroscopy on a 5-day cadence. Most observations will occur over a two-year window in the middle of Roman's five-year primary mission. The HLTDS will monitor fields in both hemispheres, with observations optimized to detect and characterize Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) over redshifts from ~0.5 to > 2.5. As one of Roman's Core Community Surveys, HLTDS is central to meeting the mission's science requirements: by using SNe Ia to trace the expansion history of the Universe, it will probe the origin of cosmic acceleration and the nature of dark energy. Beyond SNe Ia, HLTDS will chart the transient near-infrared sky, enabling the detection and characterization of rare, high-redshift events, core-collapse SNe, tidal disruption events, super-luminous SNe, kilonovae, pair-instability SNe, active galactic nuclei, dust-extinguished sources, and cool, red objects. The survey will also deliver deep co-added imaging and slitless spectroscopic data, enabling studies of faint and distant galaxy populations. More information about the HLTDS is available at this RDox page.

Galactic Bulge Time Domain Survey

Roman's Galactic Bulge Time Domain Survey (GBTDS) will obtain high cadence, high-precision time-series photometry over 1.7 deg^2 in the Milky Way's bulge. The observations will be obtained throughout Roman's five-year prime mission at either 12-minute (high cadence seasons) or five-day cadence (low cadence seasons). By using microlensing, it will enable demographic studies of exoplanets comparable to those in our solar system in both mass and orbital distance. The GBTDS is also anticipated to discover over 100,000 transiting exoplanets. Beyond exoplanets, the GBTDS will enable a sensitive search for stellar mass black holes via microlensing and astrometry, enable asteroseismology of several hundred thousand red giants, monitor the supermassive black hole at the Milky Way's center, and enable studies of neutron stars, white dwarfs, and high energy X-ray binaries. More information about the GBTDS is available at this RDox page.

General Astrophysics Surveys

Galactic Plane Survey

The Galactic Plane Survey (GPS) is an Early-Definition General Astrophysics Survey defined and recommended by the community that features wide-field mapping, time-domain observations, and deep-field/spectroscopic measurements of the Galactic Plane. With imaging and spectroscopy components, the GPS will deliver the highest-angular-resolution panoramic map of the Milky Way to date, covering ~35% of the Galactic plane at near-infrared wavelengths to reveal stars within and behind high-extinction regions. It is anticipated to reach over an order of magnitude deeper than any previous infrared survey of the Galactic plane, to yield a catalog of ~20 billion sources, an order of magnitude larger than previous surveys, and to measure proper motions for billions of Milky Way stars. Science enabled by the GPS includes investigations into Galactic structure and dynamics, star formation, the interstellar medium, dust, star clusters, evolved stars, low-mass stars, and brown dwarfs. A time-domain component further expands the scientific scope, enabling the identification and characterization of compact binaries, free-floating planets, and eruptive and pulsational variables. More information about the GPS can be found on RDox.

WFI Parallel Observations

WFI operates continuously during Coronagraph observations to provide fine pointing control. While the coronagraph is active, WFI collects science-quality data which is referred to as WFI parallel observations. The specific WFI pointings during parallel operations are not known prior to Cycle 1, though they are expected to use multiple filters and sum to roughly 90 days of data. Science observations for a single target typically span one or more calendar days.

Scheduling of the Core Community and Galactic Plane Surveys

The Roman Space Telescope observing plan includes three Core Community Surveys, the community defined Galactic Plane Survey, Coronagraph observations, and General Astrophysics Surveys selected through this and future General Investigator calls for proposals. In addition, there are also routinely executed calibration observations that are part of the calibration plan (and expected to yield scientifically valuable data).

Although the community surveys are fully defined, the exact scheduling of specific observations is uncertain, as it depends on the start of Roman operations, the specific details of the selected GAS requesting new observations, and the targets and timing of the Coronagraph observations (which are still being discussed).

A high-level summary of the time range when different components of the community surveys are expected to execute is available at this observing plan page and can be used for planning purposes for proposers responding to this call for proposals. Please note that this summary is expected to be updated as more information becomes available; proposers are advised to check regularly the Late Breaking News section of the Call for any updates.

Data Products and Product Availability

The Roman calibration pipeline developed by the SOC, *romancal*, processes Roman WFI data automatically as data is received from the telescope, producing *prompt* data products that are made available in the MAST archive on the timescale of a few days.

All WFI data are calibrated to Level 2 (L2), which are count rate images with detector-level calibrations applied. All WFI imaging data except Galactic Bulge Time Domain Survey data are subsequently combined by the SOC pipeline to produce mosaics (i.e. Level 3 or L3 data) as well as catalogs (i.e. Level 4 or L4 products). Prompt L3 products are co-adds of exposures only in the same visit (including mosaics), while L4 catalogs are single band and will include positions, photometric measurements, and shapes. WFI spectroscopy mode prompt science data are processed by the SSC Wide Field Spectroscopy pipelines to produce calibrated, extracted spectra and spectral catalogs (Level 4 data) for all grism and prism observations. Galactic Bulge time domain data are processed by the SSC Galactic Bulge Survey pipelines. More information about the calibration and processing of Roman WFI prompt data products is available on RDox.

The Science Centers will also produce survey-specific Data Release products and make them available in the MAST archive, approximately every 6 to 12 months. Data release L3 products will include exposures co-added across multiple visits, thus producing deeper images, while data release L4 catalogs will be multi-band, deeper, and with more sources than the prompt L4 catalogs, and include photometric redshifts. Data release spectra will incorporate multi-band imaging and multiple rolls for more precise decontamination and spectral extraction. The timing and processing of data releases are contingent on the details of the scheduling of the observations. More details on data releases are available on RDox.

Proposal Categories and Types

This Call for Proposals solicits General Investigator proposals for the analysis of Roman data (including calibration data and data obtained by the WFI in parallel when the Coronagraph Instrument is prime), for new General Astrophysics Survey Observations, for theoretical or laboratory astrophysics research, and for analysis of publicly accessible ancillary data with direct relevance to Roman science. All proposals can contain a combination of the different types of analysis and /or new data described above. This section describes the different proposal types as well as the different proposal elements that each proposal needs to contain.

Proposal Categories

Proposals are categorized by the type of effort required, which should be commensurate with the level of funding requested. Cycle 1 proposals will be categorized as Small, Medium, or Large, corresponding to a funding request less or equal to $150K (Small), larger than $150K and less or equal to $450K (Medium), and larger than $450K (Large). For Cycle 1, the funding cap for Large proposals will be $1.2M.

Proposal Category	Funding Level
Small	Award ≤ $150K
Medium	$150K < Award ≤ $450K
Large	$450K < Award ≤ $1.2M

The overall funding availability and the corresponding number of expected awards in each category is dependent on the final NASA funding availability.

Proposal Types

A proposal may contain any combination of the types of analysis and/or new observations, as described below.

Analysis of Roman WFI Data

Analysis of Roman data from previously defined surveys is an integral part of the Roman project and is expected to provide substantial scientific returns. Proposals can request funding for the analysis of data that will be obtained in the first two years of operations. This includes the Core Community Surveys, the Galactic Plane Survey, the Touchstone Calibration Fields, and the WFI parallel fields observed when the Coronagraph Instrument is used as prime. The specific WFI pointings during parallel operations are not known prior to Cycle 1, though they are expected to use multiple filters and sum to roughly 90 days of data. Proposals may not request changes to the baseline parallel-observing plan. Science observations for a single target typically span one or more calendar days; the specifications of these observations will be made available in the Late Breaking News section of this Call.

Proposers should familiarize themselves with the high level timeline for the execution of the different surveys during the first two years of observations; proposals to analyze data to be obtained beyond the first two years of operations will not be accepted. Proposals should take into account the availability of data products and lay out the scientific purpose of the investigation, the data that would be analyzed, the ability of the data to answer the science questions, and the proposed science returns. It is expected that most proposals accepted in Cycle 1 will fall into this category.

New General Astrophysics Survey

Proposals may also request new Roman WFI observations. These General Astrophysics Surveys can enhance/complement an existing survey or be a completely new survey. Up to six programs are expected to be selected from this category in Cycle 1. The following sub-sections contain references to the Roman Space Telescope observing guidelines, which can be found in Appendix: Additional Observing Guidelines.

Observing Time Available

About 25% of the science observing time available during the 5-year prime mission is devoted to new peer-reviewed or community-defined General Astrophysics Surveys. While the detailed timeline is not yet final and subject to change, the SSC expects to release three solicitations for new General Astrophysics Surveys among five calls for proposals during Cycles 1, 3, and 4. Roman is expected to carry out both Core Community and General Astrophysics Surveys starting in Cycle 1. It is expected that **up to ~1200 hours of Roman observing time will be available for new GAS programs. We expect that no more than ~ six GAS programs will be selected.**

Targets of Opportunity

Targets of Opportunity (ToO) are transient phenomena whose timing and/or location on the sky are unpredictable. They include objects that can be generically identified before the onset of such phenomena (*e.g.,* recurrent novae, variable stars) and predictable phenomena that can be expected, although whose precise timing cannot be specified *a priori* (*e.g.,* newly discovered comets, novae, supernovae, gamma-ray bursts). Observations of such phenomena *must* be submitted as a Target of Opportunity (ToO) proposal in response to this Call. Observations of completely unanticipated phenomena can be requested through Discretionary Research (DR) procedures.

A ToO proposal must include an APT file with observation specifications for each ToO observation. The observation specifications in APT must be completed in as much detail as possible. The proposal must present a detailed plan of observations that will be implemented if the specific event occurs. Because of the significant impact that ToO observations place on telescope scheduling, no more than four ToO activations will be allowed in one year. Up to eight ToOs may be selected in Cycle 1.

It is expected that the time between a ToO activation and the execution of the ToO observations is up to two weeks, assuming the ToO observation does not have a conflict with other constrained programs planned for execution in the same timeframe. In cases where there is a conflict the PSO and the science centers will work with the PI to resolve it.

Additional information on Targets of Opportunity activation can be found in the Appendix.

Coordinated Observations

There is no opportunity in Cycle 1 to propose joint and coordinated observations with other observatories. The Roman Project is examining the feasibility of offering these options in the future.

Theoretical and Laboratory Astrophysics Investigations

The Roman project accepts proposals for Roman-related theoretical and laboratory astrophysics research. The proposed program should address a topic that is of direct relevance to Roman observational programs, providing a lasting benefit for current or future observational programs with Roman. The proposers are encouraged to make clear the direct relevance of the proposed investigation to Roman science, or to the interpretation of specific survey(s) where applicable. The results of the investigation should be made available to the community in a timely fashion.

Analysis of Public Ancillary Data

The Roman project supports analysis of publicly accessible ancillary data with a direct connection to Roman science. The analysis of non-Roman data is allowable as a focus of the proposal, but only as needed to interpret and analyze Roman data. In this case, the proposer should clearly establish that the ancillary data are vital to the analysis of the Roman data, and are not themselves the primary object of the investigation.

Discretionary Research

Observations of unanticipated phenomena that cannot be proposed as a Target of Opportunity can be requested through the Discretionary Research (DR) time allocation. The primary utilization of DR time will be in support of exceptional, time-critical observing opportunities that cannot be accommodated within regular cycles. Other DR time usage may include unexpected transient phenomenon or other scientifically urgent case developed since the last proposal cycle. However, DR proposals will not be accepted before Roman launches. All questions should be sent to the Help Desk.

Scientists wishing to request DR observations can do so at any time after launch through the online DR proposal submission form on RTPS: http://rtps-roman.ipac.caltech.edu. The DR time requests must include a strong scientific justification, completed observation specifications produced by APT and must specify why the request could not be submitted as a proposal in the regular Call for Proposals cycle. Check the Late Breaking News for the latest policy regarding DR proposals after launch.

Funding and Compute Support

Investigators worldwide are eligible to submit a General Investigator proposal in response to the Roman Space Telescope Cycle 1 Call for Proposals. The Roman Science Support Center (SSC) will manage NASA funding awarded to investigators affiliated with U.S.-based institutions, subject to availability and the limitations cited below, to support General Investigator programs selected in Cycle 1.

Funding Support

The SSC will manage financial support for Cycle 1 investigators, subject to the availability of NASA funds and the eligibility guidelines described below. Investigators affiliated with U.S.-based institutions, regardless of nationality, are eligible for funding support. Investigators may be affiliated with educational institutions, non-profit non-academic organizations, industry, NASA centers and other government agencies.

The funding levels are determined by the proposed category; see Proposal Categories and Types for more details on the breakdown of the small, medium, and large categories. The justification for and associated work plan for each investigator receiving funding support must be specified in an anonymized fashion in the implementation plan of the proposal. Detailed, institutionally endorsed budgets are not required with the proposal.

NASA cannot award research funds to investigators affiliated with non-U.S. institutions. While non-U.S. based Co-Is are permitted on all the Roman proposals, no NASA funds may flow to foreign institutions through the PIs. Therefore, researchers affiliated with non-U.S. institutions that propose investigations with Roman should seek support through their own appropriate funding agencies. Foreign PIs could indicate at least one U.S.-based co-PI for the purpose of administrating NASA funds.

The SSC will manage Roman research funds and will contract with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) to administer the disbursement of the funds. The research funding instrument will be Research Support Agreements (RSA). An RSA is a fixed price, advance paid subcontract issued through JPL that is solely used for basic research. We plan to issue the fully funded RSAs with up to a 3-year period of performance. No-cost extensions beyond three years from the start are generally not offered. At the end of performance, RSAs require a Final Report deliverable outlining the work completed and listing publications from the research. An RSA must not involve International Traffic in Arms and Export Administration Regulations export-controlled information.

Compute Support

The peta-byte scale volume of data that will be produced by Roman requires compute resources for research and analysis that are beyond those typically available in personal computers. The SOC has developed the cloud-based Roman Research Nexus (RRN; see below for more details) to provide a rich computing environment for analysis and visualization of Roman data, as well as any data relevant to Roman. The RRN is open to all researchers, not just to those with funded Roman programs. Proposers are required to estimate the compute resources they will need on the RRN and indicate in which credit bin they fall (see below for more details).

For investigations that require compute resources beyond the scope of the RRN, the Roman Project will consider providing access to Project funded time on the NASA Science Managed Cloud Environment (SMCE). Investigations in this scenario should discuss in their implementation plan why the RRN is insufficient for the proposed project, and the Project Office will reach out regarding the use of SMCE upon acceptance of the proposal.

Additionally, successful Roman proposers will be eligible to apply for NASA High-End Computing (HEC) time and/or can use any funds awarded to their program through this call to purchase compute resources from commercial vendors or institutional partners.

Overview and Nexus Resources

The Roman Research Nexus (RRN) is a cloud-based science platform created by the SOC that provides the community with a rich computing environment to allow low-barrier access to data, compute, and software resources. The RRN is a deployment of the JupyterLab environment on Amazon Web Services, offering access to Roman data, SOC and SSC-supported software, Jupyter Notebook Tutorials, training and documentation, and collaboration, file, and resource sharing within teams.

All Roman approved programs will receive RRN credits. Each approved program will receive the same initial credit allocation with the ability to request more credits periodically, up to a maximum value.

For Cycle 1 the SOC anticipates being able to support each approved program with an initial allocation of 500 credits, with the possibility to request more credits up to a maximum of 4000 credits total, pending NASA funding availability. Proposers are required to indicate in the proposal their requested Nexus Resource Bin based on their estimated credit need (see below).

Nexus Credit Resource Bins

Nexus Resource Bin	Credits Needed
Bin 1	Credits ≤ 4,000
Bin 2	4,000 < credits ≤ 7,000
Bin 3	7,000 < credits ≤ 10,000
Bin 4	Credits > 10,000

Proposers will need to justify in the proposal implementation plan the credits needed and explain how the calculations were performed to reach their needed credit value bin (more information below).

It is expected that approved programs needing more than 10,000 credits will not be accommodated in the Roman Research Nexus and will need to use an alternative computing environment (e.g. High-Performance Computing or SMCE).

Determining Nexus Credit Needs

For most data analyses on the Nexus, the major components contributing to the cost are compute, storage, and egress.

The table below lists the specifications of the servers that are planned to be available to Nexus users during Cycle 1 and estimates the credit usage for a couple of examples – running each of the servers consecutively for 24 hours, or for example using 1000 hours of compute to run a job across all the virtual CPUs available on each server.

Compute

Server Type Offered in RRN	Specific AWS Server	vCPU	Memory*	Credits spent on 24 hrs of usage	Credits required for 1000 hrs of compute**
Small	r5.large	2	16 GiB	3	63
Medium	r5.2xlarge	8	64 GiB	12	63
Large - CPU Optimized	c6i.8xlarge	32	64 GiB	33	43
Large - Memory Optimized	r5.4xlarge	16	128 GiB	24	63
* 1 GiB = 1.07374 GB					
** Assumes that computations will be spread out through the virtual CPUs (vCPU)					

The table below includes the storage types that are planned to be available on the Nexus. The storage associated with Elastic File System (EFS) is typically expensive, particularly for data that is accessed frequently. Whenever possible users are encouraged to use Simple Storage Service (S3) storage for their work.

Storage

Storage Type	Credits required to store 1 TB of data/month
EFS - Frequent access	279
EFS - Infrequent access*	15
S3	10
* Inactive data accessed only a few times each quarter	

Egress

While ingesting data to the Nexus is free, egressing data to the internet has a cost of 84 credits per 1 TB of data.

Examples of Credit usage for Specific Science Analyses

To help proposers determine in which credit usage bin they fall, the number of credits required to perform some typical analysis tasks have been estimated and will be made available on RDox - stay tuned for Late Breaking News.

Proposal Preparation

The Roman project has adopted a single-phase proposal submission process for Cycle 1, and Dual Anonymous Peer Review (DAPR) for the proposal review process. All submitted proposals are expected to be compliant with DAPR policies and include an anonymized science justification portion as well as a separate team expertise document. All proposals must be submitted through the Roman Telescope Proposal System (RTPS). The general information about the proposal and the proposal team is entered directly into RTPS. The science justification and the team expertise documents must be submitted as PDF file attachments in RTPS.

There is no limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted by a Principal Investigator or by Co-Investigators. The proposal can be resubmitted or updated an unlimited number of times before the proposal due date. Proposals should not contain classified or controlled unclassified information, nor should they depend on access or use of classified information or facilities for any portion of the proposed activities. The Principal Investigator may withdraw a proposal from consideration at any time prior to the completion of the selection process by notifying the SSC via the Help Desk.

Cycle 1 science justification and team expertise files must be prepared with the provided Cycle 1 templates. The templates are available in LaTeX and Microsoft Word formats and can be found in the Proposal Templates section. Proposals that do not strictly adhere to the Cycle 1 templates will be declined. Proposals found in violation of DAPR rules will be flagged as non-compliant and disqualified without review.

Proposal Submission Deadline

Proposals must be submitted electronically on the RTPS website by the due date indicated on the Cycle 1 Call for Proposals page.

Input into the Roman Telescope Proposal System

General Information

General information about the proposal and proposal team is entered into RTPS and then submitted to the Roman SSC via the RTPS website. This information can be saved to a local computer as a JavaScript JSON file. When the proposer is ready to submit the proposal, they should upload the JSON file, the science justification and team expertise PDF attachments, and, if requesting new observations, an .apt file (see the APT section below), to RTPS and submit. After the initial submission, all the proposal elements can be updated separately or all at once as many times as necessary prior to the proposal deadline.

Proposals must include one science category. This information is used to distribute the proposals to the panels for the review. Please select the science category that best describes the proposal. Proposal category must also be specified: Small, Medium, or Large. An abstract with a character limit of 2000 should be entered on the proposal cover sheet.

Primary Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigator (Co-I) information such as contact email and institutional affiliation need to be entered into RTPS. There is no limit to the number of Co-Is that may appear on a proposal. The PI may also designate an additional Technical Contact for purposes of communications about technical issues with the science centers, or designate Co-Is as Co-PI for the purpose of grant administration.

Observation Specifications

For proposals requesting new observations, the observation details are specified in the Roman Astronomer's Proposal Tool (APT) and should be saved as an .apt file. On the RTPS proposal submission page, check the box indicating that the proposal contains new observations. This triggers three new entry boxes to be filled in: Hours, Summary of Observations, and APT Observation Parameters. Enter the number of requested hours based on the charged time calculated by APT. A summary of the observations should be provided on the cover sheet. The summary should detail the total observation time requested (charged time computed by APT) for *each* observing mode requested as well as the anticipated observing strategy. Any generic targets being proposed (e.g. as Targets of Opportunity or ToO) must also be summarized. The .apt file from APT should be attached in the Observation Parameters box on RTPS.

Proposal Page Limits

Templates in LaTeX and Microsoft Word formats are provided in the Proposal Templates section in the RDox and MUST be used to prepare the Scientific Justification and Team Expertise PDF attachments. Proposers may not alter the margins or font sizes in the templates. Proposals not using the Cycle 1 templates will be declined.

The page limits for each section in the Scientific Justification PDF attachment depend on the proposal category. Relevant page limits for each proposal category are summarized in the table below. Proposals that exceed the page limits may be flagged for the peer reviewers as non-compliant. The page limits for proposals are:

Proposal Category	***Total Page limit***
Regular (Science Plan, Analysis Plan, Implementation Plan, and Figures) ▪ Small ▪ Medium ▪ Large	 5 6 7
Technical justification of requested observations	+1
References	No limit

General Investigator Science Justification

All General Investigator proposals, regardless of type, must include the following sections in the Science Justification document: science case, data analysis plan, and implementation plan. An additional technical justification should be included in proposals requesting new observations. The information must be added as a single PDF file attachment to RTPS.

Proposals will be provided to each panel and TAC reviewer as PDF files. It is the responsibility of the proposing team to ensure that their science justification PDF file is legible, not password protected, and DAPR compliant.

Science Plan

Proposals must include a clear and complete statement of the investigation's science goals. The science plan and its underlying rationale should be readily comprehensible to review panels consisting of observational and theoretical astronomers with a broad range of scientific expertise. Proposals should describe the scientific impact of the proposed investigation and explain how it will provide a lasting benefit for current or future observational programs with Roman.

Analysis Plan

The analysis plan should describe the path from observations to science. It should discuss the extent to which the data contribute towards achieving the stated scientific goals of the investigation, and the extent to which data analysis would be performed as part of the project. Proposals must reference the relevant Roman surveys to determine their relevance to Roman science, unless they are pure observing proposals of new General Astrophysics Surveys (see below). This section for a theory proposal should discuss Roman data that will be used to develop or inform models or theory, and the types of Roman observations that will benefit from the proposed investigation.

All proposals must also include a quantitative description of the sky coverage and optical elements ("filters") of the planned Roman observations. Check the observing plan schedule and the data product availability section of RDox for more details. To find out more about how the Roman data will be processed, more information about WFI data calibration can be found on the data pipelines pages.

Implementation Plan

The implementation plan needs to describe how the investigations will implement and achieve the proposed science goals as related to Roman data. The plan should include the category bin for Nexus credit, how the results of the proposed investigation will be made available to the astronomical community, and on what time scale publications are expected.

Detailed cost plans are not required for Roman proposals given the use of Research Support Agreements as the funding vehicle. Instead, this section should include a high-level description of the planned work and how the requested funds will be utilized, e.g. post-doc/graduate student support. If multiple institutions are involved, the allocation of work among the investigators should be described in an anonymized fashion. The proposal category (Small, Medium, and Large) should be commensurate with the scope of work outlined in the proposal.

Technical Justification (for proposals requesting new observations only)

Proposals with an observational component must include a clear statement of the observing plan and describe the necessity of the new observations to achieve the stated science goals. Proposers should address why Roman's capabilities are uniquely important in advancing knowledge in the proposed area(s) of research.

The technical justification must include a description of the survey footprint and tiling (total area, mosaic layout, and dithering), field selection criteria, and observing modes. A summary of the exposure scheme and temporal sampling (cadence and number of repeats) at the survey level should also be included and it should be highlighted how these choices enable the science goals of the proposal. Special requirements must be explained and justified. For imaging, the required depth per band (1-sigma noise and/or 5-sigma point-source limits), filters, and expected target magnitudes/surface brightness should be detailed.

In the case of spectroscopic observations, images of the same field in at least one filter are required for pipeline processing. However, two or more filters and roll angles are highly recommended for optimal results. The imaging and spectroscopic observations do not have to be contemporaneous. For the High Latitude Time Domain or Galactic Plane Survey, observers can request grism and/or prism observations of areas with imaging observations expected in the first two years, provided the spectroscopic data is not part of the planned survey, and the imaging data meets the technical and scientific needs of the proposal.

Roman data are expected to be calibrated to highly precise levels. If proposers of new observations required special calibrations above and beyond those provided by the project (see the calibration plan here), they should be fully justified, and included in the requested time using the resources estimators within the Roman APT. For example, projects performing photometric or astrometric measurements must specify the accuracy levels needed for those measurements. The observing time requests must be based on the charged time resource estimates calculated with the Roman Astronomer's Proposal Tool (APT).

Duplicate Observations

Observations proposed as part of a GI program should not duplicate those specified by previously approved core community or general astrophysics surveys, unless an appropriate scientific motivation and a corresponding explicit justification is included in the proposal. Examples of possible scientifically justified duplications include repeat observations of variable or moving targets. Observations flagged as duplicates will be reviewed and evaluated by the review panel. The Appendix: Additional Observing Guidelines contains information about what constitutes a duplication and the procedures followed to identify duplications.

Special Requirements

APT allows for observers to input special requirements needed to constrain observations. These requirements can be used for example to specify observations that cannot be interrupted, to specify that an observation must start in a specific date range or start after another observation by a certain amount of time, or to specify than an observation must be executed at a certain orientation, or that an observation is background limited and must be executed in a low background time frame, etc.

Currently, proposers cannot use the APT special requirements to specify that observations are linked together over a time period shorter than 4 days (i.e. Obs. 2 executes after Obs. 1 by less than 4 days). Proposers for whom this is important should reach out to the Roman Help Desk for help on implementing a workaround. More information can be found in the RDox.

Proposers are advised to minimize constraints as much as possible and request them only if strictly required by the science goals. Constraints reduce telescope scheduling efficiency and are likely to create scheduling conflicts with other programs. For this reason, all special requirements used in the proposal need to be thoroughly justified.

Calibration Observations

The Roman project establishes and maintains the calibration of the WFI instrument to levels specified in the Calibration Plan, which details WFI calibration activities that are planned to be executed during nominal operations. Following commissioning, routine calibration observations will be performed following the calibration plan. All data obtained as part of WFI calibration observations will be publicly accessible in MAST and proposers can request funding to analyze data from, e.g., the Touchstone fields, which will be observed regularly throughout the mission. (While the specific details of the calibration plan may change after commissioning, the pre-defined Touchstone Files are reference fields and are not likely to change.)

No special calibrations may be requested as part of new General Astrophysics Surveys in Cycle 1.

Other Contents

Figures and Tables

There are no limits on the numbers of figures and tables in the PDF attachment, and they may be interspersed in the text. However, the font size in the figures and figure captions must be respected such that any text or labels inside figures are legible, and the total page limit must be observed.

References

References should be listed at the end of the proposal and do not count against the page limits. Reference callouts in the text must be written in numerical format, e.g. [1], with each number corresponding to the full citation in the reference list. It is recommended that callouts appear in numerical order in the text and that the reference list is presented in numerical order to simplify navigation between the proposal and the reference list for reviewers.

Team Expertise Document

As part of the proposal submission, proposers should attach a "Team Expertise " PDF file in RTPS. This section should provide a description of the expertise, background, and roles of key team members, as they relate to the science proposed. This section should be limited in length to two pages; for most proposals, two or three paragraphs will suffice. For proposals with a large number of Co-Investigators, it is not necessary to report on the qualifications of every team member, nor is it necessary to provide a bio of all the team members – just the top contributors to the project will suffice.

Templates in LaTeX and Microsoft Word formats are provided on the Proposal Templates section in the RDox for the creation of this document. They should follow the same formatting guidelines as the Science Justification PDF document above, specifically, adopt a font size no smaller than 12pt, and have one inch margins on all sides as printed on a 8.5 × 11-inch paper.

Roman Astronomers' Proposal Tool (APT)

Proposals requesting new General Astrophysics Surveys must use APT to define their observations. The Roman APT user guide provides information on how to specify Roman WFI observations. It is the responsibility of the proposer to ascertain the completeness and correctness of the elements in their APT file.

Proposers should save the finalized observations plan as an .apt file to be uploaded to RTPS, in addition to the science justification and team expertise PDF attachments as part of the proposal submission.

Proposal Templates

The proposal templates that must be used for the scientific justification and team expertise documents are provided below. This page introduces the templates to help proposers prepare their submissions.

Science Justification and Team Expertise Templates

Proposal templates for the Science Justification and Team Expertise documents are provided here in both LaTeX and Word formats.

	LaTeX / PDF	Word
For Regular (Small, Medium, & Large) Proposals	Roman_Cycle1_proposal_template.tex Roman_Cycle1_proposal_template.pdf	Roman_Cycle1_proposal_template.docx
For Discretionary Research Proposals	Roman_DR_template.tex Roman_DR_template.pdf	Roman_DR_template.docx
Team Expertise documents	Team_Expertise_template.tex Team_Expertise_template.pdf	Team_Expertise_template.docx

Please do not adjust the font sizes or page margins in the templates given. Check Proposal Preparation for more details on the page limit.

Guidelines on Generative Artificial Intelligence

Proposers are not prohibited from the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) tools, such as ChatGPT. However, following NASA policy, the proposal must acknowledge content that is not the creative product of the proposal team. Thus, any material contained in the proposal that is derived from GAI must be described and cited, e.g., the name of the program, version number, the date and time, and a short statement on how the GAI was used. This information must be included with the References and does not count against the page limits. Failure to disclose the use of GAI will result in disqualification.

Proposers are reminded that using GAI tools will place that text in the public domain. Reviewers are forbidden from uploading proposal content or review materials to GAI tools, since this violates the confidentiality of the review process.

Dual Anonymous Peer Review

The SSC has adopted a dual-anonymous review process to reduce bias and ensure reviewers focus on the scientific merit rather than the proposing team, and this page provides the guidelines and description of how the process works.

Roman Anonymous Proposal Reviews

The SSC is responsible for ensuring that the community has equal opportunity access to use the Roman Space Telescope and that the best science will be selected, given the limited resources available. The SSC places a high value on the equity and integrity of the proposal review process.

The focus of the TAC review is to recommend the best science. The identity of the proposing team should not be a consideration in making this judgement. Based on the analysis of data from past NASA ROSES and other reviews, systematic demographic differences in proposal success were noted, suggesting that unconscious bias may play a role in the proposal review deliberations. Several studies have also shown that a reviewer's attitude toward a submission may be affected, even unconsciously, by the identity of the principal investigator. Independent studies of previous NASA telescope proposal reviews suggested that a dual-anonymous process may help resolve this inequity, and may balance out other areas of potential bias.

The dual-anonymous system has been successfully used in various NASA proposal reviews, and will be adopted for Roman proposal peer reviews as well. The goal of the Dual Anonymous Peer Review is to enable each reviewer to focus on the science, and not on the proposing team. A summary of the dual-anonymous process guidelines, along with a description of how the review process works, is given below.

For more details, please refer to the NASA ROSES guidelines.

Dual-Anonymous Guidelines

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope project is strongly committed to ensuring that the proposal review process is as fair and impartial as possible. To reduce any biases as much as possible, proposals are to be written in an anonymous fashion. In a dual-anonymous review, the proposal team does not know the identity of the reviewers, and the reviewers do not know the identity of the proposal team. The primary goal of the dual-anonymous review is to have reviewers focus on the scientific merit of the proposal rather than the proposal team. While proposers enter their names and affiliations in the Roman Telescope Proposal System (RTPS), this information will not appear on the proposal cover sheet, nor in the tools used by the reviewers, until the ranking has been determined. Upon completion of the peer review process, the identity of the proposers of the successful proposals will be revealed to the Time Allocation Committee (TAC) such that the qualifications of the proposing team can be verified, before the final selection of approved Roman programs is made by the Project Science Office Selection Official. It is the responsibility of the proposers to ensure that anonymity is preserved in the information provided in the cover sheet, and when preparing the science justification document.

Review Process

The Roman Cycle 1 proposal call adopts the dual anonymous review process to ensure that all the proposals are evaluated fairly and without bias.

1. Proposers prepare an anonymized science justification following the dual-anonymous guidelines described below. The science justification document includes science, analysis, and implementation plans. The science justification portion of the proposal is shared with the TAC.
2. Proposers submit a team expertise document as an attachment in RTPS. This document provides details on the team's qualifications and relevant experience to conduct the proposed investigation. It may include the names and affiliations of at least the key members of the proposal team. This information is reviewed by the TAC only after the initial scientific evaluation has been used to rank the proposal to confirm that the selected proposals have the necessary expertise and institutional support for successful execution.

Guidelines are provided below on how to write proposals in an anonymous fashion. Most of the changes are in the writing style, including references.

General Guidelines pertaining to all proposals

- **Do not identify the PI or any co-Is in the proposal. This includes the proposal cover sheet and the scientific justification. Proposers should use third person or neutral wording when referencing their own work.**

    For example, instead of

    “In Smith et al. (2018), we demonstrated…” proposers can include references in the following formats:

    “As demonstrated in Smith et al. (2018),…” or

"As demonstrated in [1],…" where [1] corresponds to the full citation in a reference list.

- **Do not refer to software or data from Roman or any other observatories in a self-identifying fashion. Software and datasets that are available in a public repository (e.g., GitHub) or in a public paper can be referenced by normal practices. Software or datasets that are not public can be referenced as "obtained via private communications" or similar language, but a name should not be specified since it could strongly imply who may be an investigator on the proposal.**

  Example 1: instead of "Figure 1 shows the image from our Roman program (PID 5005, PI Smith)." proposers can write

  "Figure 1 shows the image from the Roman program PID 5005" or

  "Figure 1 shows the data from a Roman program (private communication)."

  Example 2: instead of "We will combine these Roman observations with the JWST program led by J. Abrahamson et al..." or

  "The proposed Roman observations will be combined with our JWST data…" proposers can write

  "We will combine these Roman observations with the JWST observations (JWST program id XXX)." or

  "The proposed Roman observations will be combined with available JWST data (private communication)…"

  Example 3: instead of "We use our group's redshit determination package REDDER…" or

  "We use the redshift identification package by co-I Tina Tegler…" proposers can write

  "We use the redshift identification package REDDER (obtained via private communication)…"

  More examples: instead of

  "Our Cycle 1 program showed…"

  "The data from our pilot program…"

  "Our previous redshift survey…"

  proposers can write

  "The data from a Cycle 1 program (private communication)…"

  "The data from program PID 5432…"

  "The survey from Gulliver et al. (2026)…"

- **Do not list the name of the PI when listing a proposal project, even if the proposal is not your own.**
- **Do not list the name of the person when referencing "private communication."**
- **Do not provide links to personal web pages or the web pages of project teams.**
- **References to papers in preparation need to be referenced as "private communication."**

  For example, instead of: "Figure 1 shows the galaxy redshift range from Keto et al. (in preparation)."

  proposers can write "Figure 1 shows the galaxy redshift range (private communication)."

  - References to papers that have been submitted are not permitted unless they are available on public archives (e.g., arXiv), in which case the archive paper can be referenced following normal practices.
  - Do not include personal acknowledgments or the source of any grant funding that may identify the proposers.

Example text

Here is example text that would need to be modified according to the guidelines, with the text to be changed in **bold**:

"We propose to perform a multi-band survey of the outer regions of nearby isolated galaxies in order to obtain the first complete survey of faint structures in the nearby Universe. To obtain a sense of the stellar populations of the faint structures, we will scan the galaxies in four different bands. **From our** previous Roman observations (Wallace et al. 2027), we estimate that by including bands F062 and F213 we will be able to maximize the stellar population diagnostics. **Our pioneering studies** of low surface brightness multi-band observations (e.g., Kerner et al. 2026) show that the inclusion of the maximum wavelength range will give the best handle to eliminate extinction effects and can lead to a considerable improvement in the reliability of stellar population diagnostics."

Here is the same text revised according to the guidelines:

"We propose to perform a multi-band survey of the outer regions of nearby isolated galaxies in order to obtain the first complete survey of faint structures in the nearby Universe. To obtain a sense of the stellar populations of the faint structures, we will scan the galaxies in four different bands. **Based** on previous Roman observations (Wallace et al. 2027), we estimate that by including bands F062 and F213 we will be able to maximize the stellar population diagnostics. **Previous studies** of low surface brightness multi-band observations (e.g., Kerner et al. 2026) show that the inclusion of the maximum wavelength range will give the best handle to eliminate extinction effects and can lead to a considerable improvement in the reliability of stellar population diagnostics."

Compliance

PIs are required to anonymize their proposals. Reviewers will be instructed to notify the Roman SSC of any proposals that appear to violate the dual-anonymous guidelines. The Roman SSC will follow up on each reported case. Any proposal that contains significant violations of the dual-anonymous guidelines may be rejected. PIs will be provided with feedback regarding any detected violations to avoid similar violations in future cycles. If this is the case, such information will be included in the notification letter as a Note from the TAC.

In some cases, a proposal may be very specialized, and the identity of the proposal team may seem obvious to the reviewers even after the text has been anonymized. As long as the guidelines to anonymize the proposals are followed, the proposal will not be considered to be in violation.

Proposal Submission Procedure

Proposals must be submitted to the SSC through RTPS, and must be consistent with the page limits and format guidelines listed in the Proposal Preparation section. Proposals requesting new observations must specify the relevant parameters using APT. RTPS and APT allow prospective investigators to plan, develop and modify their proposals in an iterative manner. That is, a proposer can write a portion of their proposal and define their accompanying observations, save the results locally, and then re-load those results at a later time for subsequent modification. The saved proposal's general information, scientific justification and observations can be modified repeatedly until the proposal is submitted to the SSC. The proposal can be resubmitted or updated an unlimited number of times before the proposal deadline. The PDF files must be created using one of the templates available in the Call for Proposals section of RDox. Proposals not using the Cycle 1 templates will be rejected. Detailed instructions on using the software are available in the RTPS User's Guide, and the flow of submission activities is described below.

Submitting your Proposal for the First Time

1. Download a science justification template from the Proposal Templates section of RDox and use it to create the Science Justification PDF file.
2. Download a team expertise template from the Proposal Templates section of RDox and use it to create the Team Expertise PDF attachment.
3. If your proposal includes new observations, download the APT, install it on your host machine, and use it to create the .apt file with your proposed observations.
4. Log into the RTPS website: https://rtps-roman.ipac.caltech.edu (create a user account if necessary).
5. Enter the general proposal information into RTPS or load any previously generated general proposal information from a saved JSON file.
6. Select the Science Category that most closely represents your proposed type of science.
7. For proposers requesting new observations: Check the box: "This proposal contains new observations." Enter the total observing time required under "Hours" (matching the charged time calculated by Roman APT).
8. Select the category of proposal (Small, Medium, Large).
9. Enter an abstract (maximum number of 2000 characters).
10. If you are proposing new observations, enter a brief summary describing your observations, including a description of the targets/areas of sky /sample proposed, observing modes and filters used, and any repetitive observations.
11. Fill in the Primary Investigator information, the co-investigator information if applicable and check the boxes for those co-investigators who are Co-PIs and/or technical contacts. Note that for the Institution, State, and Country fields, RTPS will suggest possibilities after you start typing, allowing you to select the appropriate one. If the correct option is not suggested, please type it in. For instance, please type in "N/A" for state / province if the country was not U.S. or Canada.
12. Attach the scientific justification and team expertise PDFs in their sections.
13. For observational proposals only: attach the filled out and validated APT file (.apt).
14. Press the Submit button and choose whether you want a copy of the submitted proposal. You will receive an email confirmation verifying the submission.

Note that neither NASA nor Caltech will be responsible for any cost incurred in preparing or submitting a proposal.

Updating Your Submitted Proposal

At any time before the proposal submission deadline you may modify any aspect of your submitted proposal, except the proposal ID number. You can submit a revised scientific justification, a revised team expertise document, an updated set of observations (.apt file), or corrected general proposal information.

1. Login to RTPS.
2. Select the "My Proposals" tab in RTPS.
3. Find the proposal you want to resubmit and press "Edit".
4. Make the desired changes to the general proposal information or PDF attachments or the .apt file
5. Click on "Resubmit".

You will receive an email confirmation about the resubmission. You may submit as many updates as needed prior to the deadline of the Call for Proposals. You will receive confirmation about the final version accepted for review after all the proposals are verified by RTPS.

Proposal Evaluation Process

Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Cycle 1 General Investigator Program selections will be made through a competitive peer review process.

Peer Review

Proposals received by the submission deadline will be organized into topical science areas and assigned to Review Panels with members selected from the astronomical community. In order to minimize conflicts of interest there will be parallel panels for each topical science area.

The evaluations of the Science Review Panels will be forwarded to a Time Allocation Committee (TAC), which will be comprised of a TAC Chair, the Panel Chairs, and several at-large members. The TAC will take the results of the Science Review Panels and provide a consolidated list of recommendations to the Roman Selection Official from the Project Science Office, who will then make the final selection of the Cycle 1 program.

Evaluation Criteria

The Science Review Panels and Time Allocation Committee will base their evaluations of proposals on the criteria listed in this section. The numbered criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

Proposals will be evaluated according to these criteria:

1. The overall scientific merit of the proposed investigation, its potential contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge, and its potential for enabling new and important types of scientific investigations.
2. The extent to which the proposed investigation leverages the unique capabilities of Roman or demonstrates the relevance to Roman science.
3. Well-developed analysis and implementation plans describing how the scientific objectives will be realized and the results distributed to the community.
4. For proposals requesting new observations only: the technical feasibility of the proposed observations, and the extent to which the observations can be accommodated within routine Roman operations. Proposals should provide a compelling justification for why this survey should be executed in the first two years of the mission.

Proposal Selection

The Roman Science Review Panels and Time Allocation Committee are currently scheduled to conduct their peer reviews in May / June of 2026. The Roman SSC plans to announce the final selections in the summer of 2026 with Cycle 1 observations beginning in January 2027 (assuming a late September 2026 launch and three months of commissioning).

Review of Approved Programs

All the approved programs containing new observations will be assigned a Contact Scientist (from the SOC, SSC, or both, depending on the specifics of the program). The Contact Scientist(s) will review the program to ensure the APT program implementation is the most efficient to meet the science goals of the proposal while maximizing telescope schedulability and will work with the PI and/or the technical lead to resolve any schedule conflicts and / or implement any necessary changes or modifications.

Proposal Confidentiality

Proposals submitted in response to this *Call for Proposals* will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by the review process. For approved investigations only, the Roman SSC will make the titles, investigator names, and abstracts publicly available after the selections have been announced. The remainder of the approved proposals, and the entirety of proposals not selected, shall remain confidential.

Roman Help Desk

All questions of a scientific, technical, programmatic or financial nature should be submitted electronically to the Roman Help Hesk. The Roman Science Centers at IPAC and STScI are committed to answering all the questions as rapidly as feasible, and normally within two business days from the receipt of a query. Note that as the proposal deadline approaches, the turnaround times for a response (particularly for definitive answers to complex technical questions) will likely increase. It is the responsibility of proposing teams to take this reality into consideration when submitting queries shortly before the proposal submission deadline.

Questions and answers of interest to the broader community will be archived as an anonymous Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) on the Help Desk website.

Appendix: Additional Observing Guidelines

Definition of Science Observing Time

For proposals requesting new observations, APT calculates the Science Time and the Execution Time based on the survey plan specified in APT. The Science Time is the amount of time the instrument spends on sky, observing targets, while the Execution Time takes into account internal overheads, and the Charged Time includes all the instrument and observatory overheads needed to support the science observations. For the number of hours requested on the RTPS proposal submission page, the proposer should report the Charged Time in hours quoted from the APT. See the RDox documentation on APT for more details.

Duplicate Observations

To ensure the most efficient use of the Roman Space Telescope, new observations that duplicate those already approved for execution will need to be justified.

Definitions

Observations will be flagged as a potential duplicate if the sensitivity for the proposed observations, in the same optical element, is within a factor of three of the sensitivity of the existing observations and the areas on the sky covered by the two programs overlap by more than 50%.

Examples of observations that may be approved include: synoptic observations of time-variable phenomena and second-epoch (or later) observations searching for transient phenomena. In this case, a single observation of the same area of the sky will not disallow the time-series observations. On the other hand, if the time-series observations occur *before* the single observation, it will disallow the single observation (since the objectives of the single observation could be achieved by using data from the time-series observations). Examples of proposed investigations that are unlikely to be approved include a large-area survey where excising (“cutting out”) a small area to avoid overlap with a previously cataloged observation is so inefficient that it increases the observing time for the affected observation. If a new candidate observation is less sensitive than a previously accepted observation and if it meets the area overlap criterion above, it will always be considered a duplicate since the science objective of the new program can be achieved using the deeper observation.

Policies on Duplication

Any newly proposed observation meeting the criteria listed above will be deemed a potential duplicate observation. If inspection reveals the new observation to be a duplicate without a scientific justification, the proposed observation will (in general) be forbidden. Observations that are deemed to be acceptable duplicates of observations defined above will be noted by the SSC, and this information will be provided to the Time Allocation Committee (TAC) for evaluation and adjudication, and they will make a recommendation to the Roman Selecting Official.

Activation of Targets of Opportunity (ToO) Request

Approved ToO programs will receive instructions on the activation process following the program selection. Following the activation request, the Science Centers will ascertain the impact of the ToO observations on the mission schedule and will work with the PI and the PSO to resolve any conflicts and determine a course of action.

Data Rights

All Roman data is publicly available in the MAST archive with no proprietary period.

Acronym list

Acronyms	Definitations
APT	Astronomer's Proposal Tool
CCS	Core Community Surveys
ChatGPT	Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer

Co-I	Co-Investigator
CPU	Central Processing Unit
DAPR	Dual Anonymous Peer Review
DR	Discretionary Research
EFS	Elastic File System
ETC	Exposure Time Calculator
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GAI	Generative Artificial Intelligence
GAS	General Astrophysics Surveys
GBTDS	Galactic Bulge Time-Domain Survey
GI	General Investigator
GPS	Galactic Plane Survey
GSFC	Goddard Space Flight Center
HLTDS	High-Latitude Time-Domain Survey
HLWAS	High-Latitude Wide-Area Survey
HEC	High-End Computing
HST	Hubble Space Telescope
JPL	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
JWST	James Webb Space Telescope
L2	Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 2
MAST	Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
PI	Principal Investigator
PID	Program ID
PDF	Portable Document Format
PRC	People’s Republic of China
PSO	Project Science Office
RDox	Roman Documentation
ROSES	Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science
RRN	Roman Research Nexus
RSA	Research Support Agreements
RTPS	Roman Telescope Proposal System
S3	Simple Storage Service
SMCE	Science Managed Cloud Environment
SNe	Supernovae
SOC	Science Operations Center
SSC	Science Support Center
STScI	Space Telescope Science Institute
TAC	Time Allocation Committee
TB	Terabyte

ToO	Target of Opportunity
US	United States
vCPU	Virtual Central Processing Unit
WFI	Wide Field Instrument