

Charter of the Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Initiative (CII) —

June 4th, 2026 | Version 1

The Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Initiative (CII)

The primary goal of the Rocky Worlds Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) program is to look for evidence of atmospheres on rocky exoplanets using JWST/MIRI and to measure the ultraviolet to blue-optical output of their stellar hosts using HST/STIS and COS observations. This is the context on which the Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Initiative (CII) was born. The primary goal of the CII is to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information between groups working with Rocky Worlds DDT data, including but not limited to: analysis techniques, complementary observations, follow-up project ideas, and plans for publications. The idea is to create an open forum for discussion between individuals and research groups using Rocky Worlds DDT data and grow the scope and impact of Rocky Worlds DDT science. See the Appendix for details on Organization and Platforms.

The Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Board (CIB)

The Community Involvement Board (CIB) is a standing body established to support, oversee, and advocate for broad and transparent community engagement within the Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Initiative (CII).

The CIB shall consist of five members, appointed by the Science Advisory Council (SAC) following an open call that clearly outlines the Board's role and responsibilities. Membership should reflect a balance of career stages, and should aim to capture a range of perspectives within the community.

Roles and Responsibilities of the CIB

The responsibilities of the CIB include the following:

1. Community Engagement and Communication.

The CIB will host regular meetings with the broader community to:

- a. Provide high-level updates on Rocky Worlds DDT observations.
- b. Serve as a discussion forum for community updates related to analyses and publications of Rocky Worlds DDT JWST and HST data, including anticipated timelines and opportunities for collaboration (both observational and theoretical).
- c. Facilitate discussion of community-led follow-up plans and efforts related to the Rocky Worlds DDT program.

2. Advocacy and Stewardship

The CIB will act as champions of the CII framework, promoting transparency, fairness, and broad participation across career stages and institutions.

3. Code of Conduct Oversight

- a. The CIB is responsible for ensuring that the Code of Conduct for the CII is upheld. This includes:
 - i. Receiving and reviewing complaints related to alleged violations.
 - ii. Deliberating on appropriate responses to substantiated violations.
 - iii. Determining corrective actions when necessary, up to and including removal of individuals from participation in the CII.

4. Program Governance

- a. The CIB will:
 - i. Decide on membership in the CI, based on transparent and publicly documented criteria.
 - ii. Document decisions and, where appropriate, provide a mechanism for appeal or reconsideration.
 - iii. Determine and periodically review the duration and structure of the CII, with the flexibility to adapt these as the initiative evolves. The proposed duration of CII activities is 3 years.

Appendix I: The Rocky Worlds DDT Program — background

Scientific Context

The Rocky Worlds DDT will use approximately 500 hours of JWST/MIRI and 240 orbits of HST/COS+STIS to measure the dayside thermal emission of a sample of rocky exoplanets and the UV to blue-optical output of their host stars. While the execution of the observations is the responsibility of the Core Implementation Team (CIT) at STScI, the Rocky Worlds DDT data set is open for anyone to use, with no proprietary period and no sense of data “ownership” that may come with GO programs. The success of the Rocky Worlds DDT program is in the scientific output generated by the wider exoplanet community based on Rocky Worlds data.

Organization

The Core Implementation Team (CIT) at STScI schedules observations and generates high-level science data products for the Rocky Worlds DDT. The Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) provides scientific guidance to the CIT for those observations and products. The Rocky Worlds Community Involvement Initiative (CII) is intended to provide a venue for the wider exoplanet community to coordinate and collaborate on Rocky Worlds DDT data analysis and interpretation, as well as other datasets that will benefit and enhance the JWST/HST data products. Examples of such observations are radial-velocities, high-precision photometry, and multi-wavelength spectra for the Rocky Worlds DDT targets and their stars.

The model for the CII is a lighter version of the TESS Follow-Up Observing Program (TFOP) that coordinated publications of TESS data and follow-up observations, such as radial velocities, in support of those publications.

Appendix II: Platforms for Community involvement

The Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Initiative (CII) will have a simple application procedure. Membership is open to the community subject to agreement with this Charter and Code of Conduct. Once applications are reviewed and approved by the CIB, new members will have access to three key platforms of the CII which will be supported technically by the CIT, and moderated and governed by the CIB:

1. **Planned publications list.** This list will contain titles and abstracts of planned publications by the Community. In practice, this will be a CII-members only Confluence page containing:
 - a. Authors and affiliations
 - b. Abstract

- c. **Current Status & Timeline**
2. **Follow-up observations community spreadsheet.** This spreadsheet will contain information about follow-up projects for Rocky Worlds DDT targets, including dates and types of observations, for example:
 - a. Direct work on Rocky Worlds DDT data
 - b. Radial-velocity follow-up
 - c. Photometric follow-up
 - d. HST/JWST and/or other space- and ground-based atmospheric follow-up
 - e. Spectroscopic stellar characterization efforts
3. **CII Slack.** A Slack workspace hosted by STScI will be a forum for day-to-day discussions, as well as of organization and collaboration.

Appendix III: Collaboration policies and Code of Conduct

Collaboration with non-CII members

The Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Initiative (CII) is designed to promote broad collaboration within the exoplanet community. While membership in the CII provides access to shared coordination platforms and communication channels, collaboration with researchers who are not CII members is both permitted and encouraged when it enhances the scientific return of the Rocky Worlds DDT.

CII members may engage in collaborations with non-CII members, including sharing data products, analysis methods, and scientific results, provided that such interactions are conducted in a manner consistent with the principles of transparency, fairness, and proper attribution.

Expectations for collaboration with non-CII members include:

- **Transparency of Intent**
CII members should make reasonable and timely efforts to inform relevant CII collaborators of planned external collaborations when those efforts overlap with ongoing or planned CII activities (e.g., analyses, follow-up observations, or publications listed on CII platforms).
- **Respect for Ongoing Work**
Members should avoid actions that knowingly duplicate or undermine ongoing efforts by CII participants without prior communication. When scientific overlap exists, good-faith efforts toward coordination or collaboration are strongly encouraged.
- **Attribution and Authorship**
Contributions from both CII and non-CII collaborators must be appropriately recognized.

Authorship decisions should follow standard practices in the field and be discussed openly among collaborators at early stages of a project.

- **Data Use and Sharing**

Any use of data or materials obtained through CII platforms must respect the norms and expectations of the initiative, including appropriate acknowledgment of contributors and, where applicable, coordination with those who generated or curated the data. Use of information from CII platforms (including unpublished plans or analyses) should not be used to preempt or compete with ongoing efforts without prior communication.

The CII does not claim exclusivity over Rocky Worlds DDT-related science. Rather, it seeks to enable a collaborative environment in which coordination enhances, rather than restricts, the scientific contributions of the broader community.

CII platforms are intended to facilitate coordination, not to establish priority or exclusivity; however, members are expected to respect clearly documented ongoing efforts.

Code of Conduct

The Rocky Worlds DDT Community Involvement Initiative (CII) is committed to fostering a professional and respectful environment that supports open scientific collaboration across a global community.

All CII members are required to agree to and abide by the following principles:

- **Respect and Professionalism**

All participants are expected to engage with one another in a respectful and constructive manner. Harassment, discrimination, or exclusionary behavior will not be tolerated.

- **Broad Participation**

The CII is committed to ensuring that opportunities for collaboration, visibility, and leadership are broadly available. Members should actively support a collegial and respectful environment where different perspectives are welcomed and valued.

- **Scientific Integrity**

Members are expected to uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity, including honesty in data analysis and reporting, proper citation of prior work, and transparency in methods and assumptions.

- **Responsible Communication**

Discussions within CII platforms (e.g., Slack, meetings, shared documents) should remain professional and focused on constructive scientific exchange. Confidential or sensitive information, including unpublished scientific plans, analyses, or coordination efforts shared within the CII should not be disseminated outside the initiative without

appropriate consent.

- **Authorship and Credit**

Contributions should be fairly recognized in publications, presentations, and other outputs. Members are expected to engage in open and early discussions regarding authorship and to avoid practices that exclude or diminish legitimate contributions.

- **Conflict Resolution**

In cases of disagreement or conflict, members are encouraged to resolve issues through open and respectful dialogue. If resolution cannot be reached, concerns may be brought to the Community Involvement Board (CIB) for mediation.

Enforcement

The Code of Conduct is enforced by the Community Involvement Board (CIB), as outlined above. Violations may result in actions ranging from informal guidance to formal warnings, temporary suspension, or removal from CII participation, depending on the severity and context of the behavior.

Many of the ideas incorporated in this Charter were informed by the successful TESS Follow-up Observing Program Working Group Charter, in particular Version 19 (15 October 2021).