Sofia civilian solar system

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What is SOFIA telescope?
SOFIA is comprised of a Boeing 747SP aircraft modified to accommodate a 2.5 meter gyro-stabilized telescope. SOFIA is the largest airborne observatory in the world. From high in Earth's atmosphere, the mission can make observations that are impossible for even the largest ground-based telescopes on the highest mountain peaks.

How did Sofia measure polarization?
SOFIA was the first space telescope capable of measuring the direction of magnetic fields on large scales, Krabbe said. It did so by detecting polarization, the direction in which light waves oscillate. "This was a real breakthrough," said Krabbe. "It's very difficult to measure polarization, especially in other than infrared wavelengths."

Where did the Sofia Mission end?
Its destination was the Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona, where it found its final resting place, or a permanent home, as a museum exhibit. For an in-depth dive, read the SOFIA Status and Future Prospects report released by the SOFIA team just before the mission's cancellation.

SOFIA was the successor to the Kuiper Airborne Observatory. During 10-hour, overnight flights, it observed celestial magnetic fields, star-forming regions, comets, nebulae, and the Galactic Center.

As an infrared observatory, SOFIA needed to be able to view the sky unobstructed by Earth"s atmosphere, which absorbs most of the infrared radiation coming from space.

In 1986, the observatory analyzed the chemical composition of Halley"s Comet, providing insights into the makeup of early solar system materials. In 1988, the observatory was the first to ...

SOFIA carried a reflecting telescope that observed the cosmos in infrared light. It flew into Earth"s stratosphere, up to about 45,000 feet (13,700 meters), and collected data during 10-hour ...

SOFIA is making observations of new solar systems, complex molecules in space, and planets in our own Solar System. SOFIA is a joint program between NASA and the German Aerospace Center ...

SOFIA flies into the stratosphere at 11,582-13,716 meters (38,000-45,000 feet), above 99% of Earth"s infrared-blocking atmosphere, allowing astronomers to study the solar system and beyond ...

SOFIA is an airborne observatory that will study the universe in the infrared spectrum.

SOFIA is a powerful, general-purpose infrared observatory used to study the birth of new stars, planetary nebulas and supernova remnants, the atmospheres of Solar System objects, and many more.

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