Aditya-L1
Announcement of Opportunity
First Cycle

January 2026

Science Programme Office

ISRO HQ, Bengaluru

Aditya-L1 Mission

Announcement of Opportunity (AO) soliciting proposals for the first AO cycle observations

1. Criteria for applying:

This announcement soliciting proposals for Aditya-L1 observation is open to Indian scientists / researchers residing and working at institutes/universities/colleges in India, who

- are involved in research in the area of solar science and
- are equipped to submit proposals as Principal Investigators (PIs) for solar observations with necessary scientific and technical justification and
- can analyse the data, if observation is made based on approvals.

2. Introduction and Schedule

Aditya-L1, India's first dedicated space mission to study the Sun, was successfully launched on September 2, 2023 by ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-57). After its launch, the spacecraft underwent a series of orbital manoeuvres and was successfully inserted into a halo orbit around the first Lagrangian point (L1) in the Sun-Earth system on January 6, 2024. This L1 point, located approximately 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth, offers the unique advantage of continuous, uninterrupted observation of the Sun, free from eclipses or occultation.

Aditya-L1's placement at L1 allows for continuous monitoring of solar activity and provides pristine measurements of solar particles and magnetic fields, free from the influence of Earth's magnetosphere. The mission carries a suite of seven scientific payloads—four for remote sensing and three for in-situ measurements. The remote sensing instruments observe different layers of the Sun, including the photosphere, chromosphere, and corona, using various wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation. The in-situ payloads, including particle detectors and magnetometers, collect data on the local space environment around L1.

Further details about the mission are available on ISRO website (https://www.isro.gov.in/Aditya_L1.html). More details about the instruments and their performance are available at https://link.springer.com/collections/ebfhcjdjic .

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) invites proposals for the first Aditya-L1 Announcement of Opportunity (AO) to utilize observation time from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) and the Solar Ultra-violet Imaging Telescope (SUIT). Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Aditya-L1 Proposal Processing System (ALPPS) hosted at the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC). ALPPS can be accessed via ISSDC website (https://www.issdc.gov.in/) or directly with the link https://alpps.issdc.gov.in/web. All submissions will be reviewed by the Aditya-L1 Time Allocation Committee (ALTAC) for scientific merit and technical feasibility.

Approved observations for this first AO cycle will be conducted between April 2026 and Jun 2026. Updates regarding specific dates and schedules will be posted on the ISSDC website.

For all matters related to the proposal, the Principal Investigator (PI) of the proposal is the single point of contact for ISRO. The PI will be informed through e-mail about the status of the submitted proposals. It is expected that necessary facilities for carrying out the AO project will be provided by respective host institutions. The PI will be notified once the requested observations have been completed. There will not be any proprietary period for Aditya-L1 data for the first AO cycle. The data will be released in the public domain via ISSDC immediately upon generation. All data acquired under Target of Opportunity (ToO) observation will also be released publicly, typically within 24–48 hours of acquisition via ISSDC.

The deadline for submission of proposals for the first AO cycle is 6 Feb, 2026. Approved observations for this AO cycle will be conducted between April 2026 and Jun 2026. All announcements regarding exact dates and proposal submission will be available at the ISSDC website (https://www.issdc.gov.in/).

3. Observing Cycles

In this first AO cycle, the observing time is available for Indian AO proposals. Depending upon the mission requirements, there would be observation scheduled for calibration and other maintenance activities within the observing window of April- June 2026. Target of Opportunity (ToO) proposals can be submitted anytime from 6 Jan 2026 onward.

3.1 AO cycle

Aditya-L1 is operated in a pre-planned manner i.e. proposers are not present at Missions Operations Complex during the execution of their observations. Thus, all observations must be specified in full details in advance.

- The observation window is from April–June 2026 and is termed as First AO cycle. During this AO cycle only VELC and SUIT based proposal shall be accepted for review and associated scheduling, if approved after finding suitable based on scientific justification and technical feasibility.
- The observation time is exclusive for Indian proposers as Principal Investigators (PIs) to utilise Aditya-L1 time. They could be interested researchers, scientists and solar astronomy community at large, involved in scientific research in the field of solar and heliospheric astronomy and are equipped to submit proposals as Principal Investigators (PIs) for specific target observations with necessary scientific and technical justification and can analyse the data, if the target is observed based on approvals.
- All efforts will be taken to schedule the selected AO proposals into this first AO observing schedule. However, few observations approved in this AO cycle may be scheduled outside of the above period, in case there is operations requirement, which will be provided by Aditya-L1 Mission.

4. Overview of proposal preparation, validation, submission and selection

PIs of proposals will have to submit proposals to ISRO by the deadline February 6, 2026 using Aditya-L1 Proposal Processing System (ALPPS) software. ALPPS is available online through: https://alpps.issdc.gov.in. ALPPS is a web application and not downloadable and cannot be used off-line. The proposer's guide is available on the ALPPS landing page which elaborates on the proposal submission procedure. A summary is provided in this section.

4.1 Brief instructions for proposal preparation (Aditya-L1: VELC & SUIT)

Proposers shall use ALPPS to create, prepare and submit proposals. The VELC and SUIT proposers' guides available online at ISSDC webpage describe the payload characteristics and the details on instrument configurability available for a proposal. The following points are to be noted:

1. Before preparing the proposal, clearly identify the scientific objectives and the solar regions or features to be observed (e.g., corona, active regions, UV structures). Ensure that the requested observations can be carried out using the observing modes and operational constraints of VELC and SUIT as described in the respective user guides.

2. Since Aditya-L1 continuously observes the Sun from the L1 point, target visibility checks are not required. However, if the science case requires time-specific observations (for example, evolution of an active region or flare-associated studies), the proposer must ensure that such time constraints are scientifically justified and operationally feasible during the AO observing window.
3. Estimate the required exposure times, cadence and other instrument parameters based on the specifications provided in the VELC and SUIT proposer guides. Simulations, photon flux estimates or radiative models may be used wherever appropriate to demonstrate technical feasibility.
4. Prepare the scientific justification using the LaTeX template available on the ISSDC website. Proposals will be evaluated based on expected science return, suitability of observing strategy, justification for exposure/cadence settings, and overall technical and scientific feasibility. The feasibility should be established through simulations, SNR estimates and related calculations as applicable.
5. Log in to ALPPS and create a proposal. Select the proposal category; Regular or Target of Opportunity, as required. Select the AO cycle for the regular type
6. Fill the mandatory fields such as proposal title, abstract and list of investigators. Ensure that the details of the Principal Investigator (PI) are accurate, as the PI will be the single point of contact for ISRO.
7. In the “Instrument Configuration” page, select VELC and/or SUIT as required and specify the operational modes, filters, exposure times, cadence and any other settings needed for the proposed observation.
8. In the “Observation Time Settings” page, provide the total duration required for the observation, including all relevant overheads. The proposer should ensure that the requested duration is consistent with the exposure estimates and the observational requirements stated in the scientific justification. Use the constraint check tools to fine tune the time duration.
9. Upload the PDF files of the scientific justification and any supporting material such as simulations, plots or calculation outputs.
10. In the “Verify and Submit” page, verify all entries including instrument settings and observation time requirements. Click “Validate” and make corrections if needed. Upon successful validation, submit the proposal.

4.2 ALPPS Instructions

Instructions to fill various entries within ALPPS to prepare proposals are available online. ALPPS proposer's guide can also be referred for this purpose which is available at ISSDC website. Queries on ALPPS can be mailed to (**issdc@istrac.gov.in**) for proposal preparation and submission. Queries will be answered on best effort basis.

4.3 Preparing an Aditya-L1 Proposal

First time proposers will need to register into the ALPPS before they can prepare proposals. Proposers may go through the ALPPS User Guide before submitting the proposal.

4.4 Proposal handling in ALPPS

The receipt of each incoming proposal will be automatically acknowledged. At the end of submission date, the proposals will be forwarded to ALTAC for scientific review. All the committees are constituted by Chairman, ISRO/Secretary, DOS.

The ALTAC will assign priorities to each proposal. The ALTAC may ask some proposers to reduce the observing time in a proposal or suggest other modifications. Such proposals will be made available for revision to the PIs. The proposers will be able to submit a revised proposal before the set deadline only for changes recommended by the ALTAC. Such proposals, if not revised before the deadline, will be excluded from the list of successful proposal.

The technical feasibility of making the observations will also be conducted by ALTAC. One of the parameters used to plan which observations will be carried out during a particular day, is the priority of the observations as allocated by the ALTAC.

However, for operational reasons, no guarantee can be given that a particular observation will in fact be executed, regardless of its priority.

5. Data Processing, data rights and publications

After the completion of observation, the raw data received are converted to Level-1 and Level 2 data by Payload Operation Centre (POC) of Aditya-L1. VELC and SUIT-POC are located at Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru and Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune. The higher-level data is sent to ISSDC. ISSDC is responsible for governing the ingest, Quick Look Display (QLD), archival (all levels, along with the auxiliary data) and dissemination of payload data. The Aditya-L1 payload data will be in standard CDF and FITS format.

The PI will be informed, after the completion of successful observation for downloading of processed Level-1 and/or Level-2 data from ISSDC.

The standard pipeline software from Level-1 to Level-2 and any other higher level standard products will be made available to the PIs of proposals through ISSDC website.

5.1 Proprietary period

No proprietary period shall apply to the observational data obtained from the payload(s) for which the observation proposals are submitted (VELC, SUIT, or both, depending on the proposal) during the first AO cycle. The data will be made available to the public domain via the ISSDC immediately after generation which will be accessible nationally and internationally.

Since there is no proprietary period, the data may be used by any persons or teams, including those other than the PI and team who submitted the proposal(s) for the observations.

Target of Opportunity (ToO) observations will be processed immediately to Level-1 data and will be placed in the ISSDC archive. ToO data are non-proprietary and are open to the public immediately after observation.

5.2 Publications and Acknowledgement

All the publications using Aditya-L1 data shall acknowledge the data use by including a phrase “Aditya-L1 -along with the name of the payload(s)” whose data is used for analysis/ interpretation in the abstract.

When publishing a paper using Aditya-L1 data, the following acknowledgement to be included by the author(s) of the paper:

“This publication uses the data from the Aditya-L1 mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), archived at the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC)”.

If a user has used already published Aditya-L1 results and carried out further interpretation or modelling, the following statement to be included in the acknowledgment. ***“The research is based (partially or to a significant extent) on the results obtained from the Aditya-L1 mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), archived at the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC)”.***

ISRO may use any/all results that are derived from Aditya-L1 data and published through academic papers in journals or any other publications by the user, for its own use, in its reports and publications with due reference/ acknowledgments to such journals and publications.