

Astrophysical Research Consortium Indirect Cost Policy

SDSS-III Policy on Indirect Costs Associate with Project Infrastructure

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey, from its beginnings in the late 1980's and continuing to its current incarnation as SDSS-III, has had a policy whereby the substantial in-kind contributions from its various participating institutions have been carried out at cost, i.e., without any institutional overhead or indirect cost. In particular, overhead and indirect cost are not counted towards the buy-in costs for institutional membership. The one exception to this policy is New Mexico State University, which has the site contract to the observatory and plays a key role in purchasing support and insurance coverage for the observatory. This policy is described in the "Procedures for Obtaining Membership in AS2" (<http://www.sdss3.org/collaboration/membership.pdf>), and has been written into the Memoranda of Understanding between SDSS-III and each of the member institutions. It has significantly reduced the overall budget of SDSS, SDSS-II, and SDSS-III; indeed, without this very generous contribution from the member institutions, the SDSS may not have been financially viable, and may not have been nearly as successful as it is.

In this spirit, the following shall be SDSS-III policy:

No SDSS-III institution, with the exception of the host institution of Apache Point Observatory, shall charge overhead or indirect costs (IDC) on ARC-funding contracts (e.g., Sloan Survey Project agreements) for work done as part of the project. This includes in-kind contributions that are done as part of the buy-in costs for the project and hardware and software development on SDSS-III infrastructure which is included in the Director's budget. Thus each institution that will use ARC funds from SDSS-III must obtain an IDC waiver from their sponsored projects office, and this agreement will be written into the Memorandum of Understanding between the institution and SDSS-III.

ARC's IDC waiver policy applies to not only ARC member institutions but also the SDSS Collaboration member institutions.

Contacts

Questions related to the interpretation of this policy should be directed to the ARC Secretary/Treasurer.

Effective Date

November 12, 2012