



U.S. National  
Science Foundation



U.S. DEPARTMENT  
of ENERGY | Office of  
Science

# Here we go!

*Bob Blum*

*2025 May 07*



# Five Months and Counting

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- Staffing
- Summit -> USDF -> data -> community
  
- Closeout and Readiness Reviews
- Budget plan and Funding
- Early Science Plans

A large, white, multi-tiered industrial building with a prominent, tall, cylindrical tower on top, situated on a rocky, elevated terrain. The building has a complex, angular design. In the foreground, a wide, unpaved dirt road with visible tire tracks leads towards the building. To the right, there are several large, grey rocks and a smaller, yellow and white structure. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene suggests an industrial or mining site in a high-altitude or mountainous region.

*On the road and close to  
Operations ...*

# Everything is right in front of us

2025 Rubin Event Planning		2025 Calendar																																			
		June															July																				
Event	Notes	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri			
Rubin First Photon	Target date April 17 but could slip 1-2 weeks.																																				
AAS 246	Annual summer meeting, Anchorage. Build excitement for FL																																				
FL preparation	3+ weeks AOS tuning. Need the second dark time window May 17-24. Then 5 weeks image processing, testing, rehearsal. Then July 16 FL.	Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal		Teal			
Rubin First Look	Press conference in DC. Tu/We for max impact.																																				
LSST community FL outreach events	-1 week (*weekend) FL after party. AS/EPO to confirm																																				
Rubin DP1	A few days after RFL to avoid stealing its thunder - also, avoid Juneteenth. Day 1 of the Data Academy should be fun (and feasible).																																				
LSST SC: Data Academy	Based on DP0.2, get community ready for DP1 (released that week)																																				
Rubin System First Light	Technical milestone.																																				
Rubin System Optimization Observing	SO starts at SFL, continues until "SV Start"																																				
Red Team Review for CCR2/ORR1	Zoom. At least 2 weeks before the joint agency review.																																				
CCR2/ORR1 Joint Agency Review	La Serena. Late dates, long after RFL but also after SFL.																																				
LSST DESC Meeting, UIUC	UIUC. Week before RCW																																				
Rubin2025 Community Workshop	Tucson/hybrid, 4-5 weeks after FL/DP1																																				
Rubin: Window for Staff Vacations	The team will need some time off as well as addressing CCR2 recs																																				
<b>Key:</b> Teal = Rubin. Put an "R" in the cell. Or an "O" (for survey-made observing) for a paler teal. Yellow = LSST Science Community, put an "L" in the cell. Red = First Look, "F"																																					
		August															September																				
Event	Notes	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri			
Rubin: Window for Staff Vacations	The team will need some time off as well as addressing CCR2 recs																																				
Rubin System Optimization Observing	SO starts at SFL, continues until "SV Start"																																				
Rubin Science Validation Observing	-4 weeks per schedule. In practice SV blocks will likely start in SO																																				
Rubin CCR3/ORR2	Bring forward to avoid 9/18 week, makes it 7 weeks after CCR2.																																				
Rubin All Hands Meeting	Right after SV and CCR3 for visible handover.																																				
LSST@Europe7	Poland. DP1, early alerts, look-ahead to survey start																																				
LSST Survey Start	October 1st would be on the early side relative to DPRPT nominal																																				

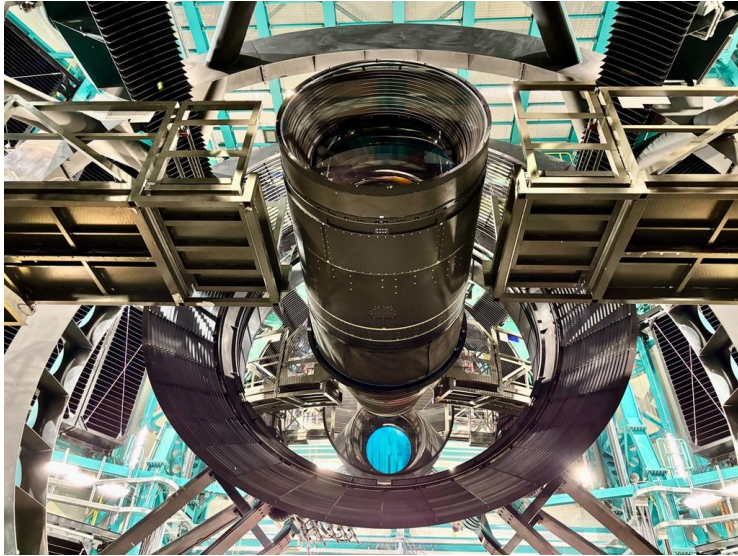
Likely October 22-25

# Operating the System for Readiness

- Rubin Observatory is operational.
- Follow [commissioning progress](#) each week as we approach operations.
- Current best night for regular data taking: 545 images



# It's working!



# In Operations Now

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- Summit Facility is operational. Nighttime team is working well, getting experience running system (both commissioning mode and scheduler driven observations). Includes support from commissioning scientists, observing specialists, IT (LHN operating, data transfer improving).
- Day crew working on finishing project and maintenance plans.
- USDF is operational. Getting experience with workflows, processing data following each night. DM and System performance working on production for Data Preview 1 (DP1) due in June.
- Community Science Team preparing for DP1 with Data Academies, guides, support model
- EPO is engaged deeply in First Look, Education program, Citizen Science for DP1, Social Media. Working with SLAC and CEE.
- Long Haul Network up and running.
- Director's office leading FY26-27 plan, prep for CCR2/ORR1, engaging with Rubin Construction, NOIRLab, and SLAC for transition. Regular reporting to stakeholders. Contracts, In-kind management, ...
- Our team is planning and executing Operations events regularly: reviews, RCW's, Other meetings.

# Closeout and readiness

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- Coordinating with Construction and agencies CCR2/ORR1 charge. Planning for mid July combined joint agency review in Chile.
- Operations will highlight fully ready staff plan and robust workflows for early operations.
- Current challenges: efficiency of on sky data taking (normal for this stage, expect significant gains by ORR), availability of hardware and service at USDF (team is working to address), maintenance planning (expect further progress as staff complete more SITCOM work), plan for dome completion, budget uncertainty.



# Early Science

- We are reviewing plan for early science given experience we are gaining in early on sky operations and workflows at the USDF.
- DP1 is a richer data set than originally planned. Will come out in June.
- Alerts begin at end of SITCOM phase before handover. Alerts ramp up after handover. Processed Visit Images and catalogs, same.
- DP2 ~6 months after handover
- Discussion on going over timing and content of Data Release 1.

