Summer 2026 ENSCI User Panel Report

Euclid NASA Science Center at IPAC (ENSCI)

July 9, 2026 — held over Zoom

Members of User Panel

- Prof. Dan Weisz (UC Berkeley; Panel Chair)
- Prof. Gabriela Canalizo (UC Riverside)
- Prof. Xinyu Dai (University of Oklahoma)
- Prof. Jeffrey A. Newman (University of Pittsburgh)
- Prof. Lado Samushia (Kansas State University; EC)
- Prof. Allison L. Strom (Northwestern University)
- Prof. Anja von der Linden (Stony Brook University)

Link to presentation material

Link to December 2025 report

Executive Summary

The Euclid NASA Science Center at IPAC (ENSCI) User Panel convened for its Summer 2026 meeting via Zoom on July 9, 2026. This meeting included a substantially updated panel membership, now chaired by Dan Weisz, who replaced the previous chair, Eric Murphy. During the meeting, ENSCI provided a list of questions for the panel to consider, and members of the ENSCI team made a series of presentations covering status updates to both Euclid and ENSCI, responses to the December 2025 panel report, the Q2 data release, IRSA-Euclid Archive updates and DR1 plans, ENSCI notebook progress, and forced photometry. In the following report, we briefly comment on ENSCI's handling of recommendations from previous reports and provide responses to the questions the panel was asked to focus on.

We thank all of the speakers for their clear presentations and for leaving ample time for discussion. As at prior meetings, we were impressed by the progress the ENSCI team has made in preparing the US community for DR1, which has been split into DR1-Foundation (planned for November 2026, ~1900 deg^2) and DR1-Complete (which ESA refers to simply as "DR1"; expected mid-2027). This is a substantial dataset relative to Q1 and Q2, and getting the community ready for it is clearly the central task at hand. We were also encouraged that, based on current NASA guidance, funding for Euclid support appears stable for the coming year.

As in previous reports, we reiterate the outsized value that ENSCI provides to the US community: it is the primary mechanism enabling US-led science with Euclid and a foundational framework for archival science that helps democratize access beyond large R1 institutions. Given the significant prior US investment in Euclid (e.g., providing the near-infrared detectors for the NISP instrument) and the rapidly approaching DR1 releases, we regard stable, continued funding of ENSCI as a high priority for NASA. We encourage the ENSCI team to keep up the excellent work.

Response to Previous UP Comments

The panel greatly appreciates the time and effort the ENSCI team has spent responding to our December 2025 report. We note tangible progress on several fronts: active preparation of the community for the cloud-centric DR1 access, including (1) video tutorials released in 2025 in lieu of live webinars; (2) spectral querying via astroquery through IRSA, with a tutorial notebook; (3) continued development and improved discoverability of Euclid notebooks; and (4) continued coordination with IRSA on the Euclid archive. We also thank ENSCI for continuing to encourage ESA, on the community's behalf, to engage on longer-standing items such as the survey/footprint visualization and the availability of the official Euclid footprint.

Response to ENSCI Questions to the User Panel

1. Is ENSCI on the right track for DR1, based on following the panel's previous advice?

The panel feels that ENSCI is on the right track heading into DR1. Many of the tools and notebooks built for Q1 and Q2 will carry over, and the DR1-Foundation / DR1-Complete split gives the team a sensible, staged path. We are encouraged that ENSCI expects to receive DR1 products early enough to understand them and prepare for public release. We reiterate our standing recommendation: given the shift to working in the cloud for DR1, ENSCI should continually remind the community of this change and provide as many tools and guides as possible now. Specifically:

- **Advertise the two-part DR1 structure clearly and widely.** The DR1-Foundation (Nov 2026) vs. DR1-Complete (mid-2027) split, and what each contains, needs to be communicated broadly so the US community understands it. Where possible, ENSCI should clearly map which ADAP call corresponds to which Euclid release (e.g., DR1-Foundation vs. DR1-Complete), and clarify how the DR1 timing relates to ADAP 2026, as ADAP dates and timelines are made public.
- **Broaden the reach of ENSCI resources.** There is a great deal of data competing for the community's attention, especially with the imminent launch of Roman. We encourage ENSCI to advertise its notebooks and tools more broadly to venues such as the Rubin/LSST and Roman Science Collaborations, where Euclid notebooks may inspire joint or complementary analyses.
- **Help users understand the cloud load for DR1.** As DR1 access will be cloud-based (hosted in the NASA Cloud, with access including Fornax), ENSCI should help users anticipate the compute footprint of typical DR1 analyses, including guidance on default allocations and best practices for efficient use.

2. Additional support for ADAP proposals and funding opportunities

Proposal support is an area where modest ENSCI effort yields high community value, and we reiterate earlier concerns about the barrier to entry for new users. We recommend the following:

- **Clarify ADAP–release correspondence.** As noted above, clearly indicate which ADAP call corresponds to which Euclid data release, so proposers know what data will be public and supported by the time funding begins.
- **Highlight relevant funding opportunities.** We encourage ENSCI to surface, via the newsletter and Proposal Support Page, opportunities of specific relevance to Euclid users — including the AI-for-large-datasets funding within ROSES-26 (AIIN) and the citizen-science opportunity for which NASA has highlighted Euclid specifically.
- **Raise awareness of Euclid-related fellowships.** We suggest ENSCI raise the visibility of prize- and postdoctoral-fellowship pathways to work with Euclid data (e.g., NASA Postdoctoral Program opportunities), particularly among students finishing their PhDs, to broaden the pipeline of early-career researchers using Euclid.
- **Consolidate ADAP-relevant technical information.** Consistent with prior reports, we encourage ENSCI to keep proposal-relevant technical materials (e.g., PSF, footprint, backgrounds) organized and easy to find.

3. Would an interactive coverage-map / footprint notebook be valuable? What capabilities should it include?

Yes, though we would encourage ENSCI to keep the scope deliberately narrow so this does not draw resources away from its core DR1 mission. The panel's view is that the highest-value, lowest-cost version of this is a simple tool focused on Euclid — ideally alongside Roman — rather than a broad multi-survey footprint service. Our recommendations, in priority order:

- **Make it easy to use the Euclid footprint in one's own notebook.** The single most useful thing ENSCI can provide is straightforward access to the official Euclid footprint data that users can pull directly into their own code. This is low-effort and high-value, and serves both novice and expert users.
- **Ensure the *official* Euclid footprint is available.** It is important that the authoritative, validated Euclid footprint be the reference, so that community analyses are anchored to a common standard.
- **Keep any interactive browser lightweight.** If ENSCI builds a visual tool, a simple browser showing just the Euclid and Roman footprints would meet the community's core need. We would caution against expanding to a broader set of surveys, which risks substantial scope creep for limited added benefit. A quick review of existing implementations (e.g., at NOIRLab) might save effort or supply reusable conventions.

4. What notebook topics or science use cases should ENSCI prioritize for DR1?

The panel is enthusiastic about the notebooks and encourages continued development. We would have valued digging into at least one result in some depth, and we ask that ENSCI provide direct links to the notebooks shown. Suggested priorities, roughly in order:

- **Joint Rubin–Euclid analysis.** With a major Rubin release at the end of this month, a notebook demonstrating joint Rubin–Euclid analysis would be timely and of broad interest. An example in the deep fields or COSMOS was highlighted as one possibility.
- **Weak-lensing shape measurements (the complete DR1 release).** A notebook demonstrating how to use the Euclid weak-lensing shape measurements would directly serve one of the mission's core science goals.
- **Forced photometry.** The addition of a public forced photometry notebook is viewed as particularly useful to the user community. Clarify any limitations with this notebook along with its release.
- **Catalog contents.** Users would benefit from clear documentation of what the DR1 catalogs contain. For example, whether ground-based colors are included.
- **Time-domain science.** We encourage ENSCI to consider developing a Euclid time-domain notebook, noting that IRSA already hosts a (non-Euclid) time-domain notebook that could serve as a starting template. Information on repeated-scan regions relevant to timing science (e.g., the self-calibration field and deep fields) would be a useful accompaniment.

Additional Feedback and Clarifications

- **Cloud-access transition.** We appreciate that ENSCI's workshops and webinars are geared toward the move to "cloud-mostly" access. We encourage plain-language guidance on what this means for users' workflows. This includes Fornax accounts, current restrictions, default allocations (still being tuned in beta) and which analysis software can run in the cloud environment. Where feasible, encouraging institutional over personal accounts is sensible and should be documented publicly.
- **Pixel-to-spectrum mapping.** We note that DR1 will not include the information needed to determine which pixels produce a given spectrum. The panel supports ENSCI's effort to provide an approximate formula with a worked notebook example and encourages continued pressure on this, as it is important for spectroscopic users.
- **Community engagement.** We encourage continued user surveys at meaningful points in the year (e.g., around ROSES calls or data releases) and efforts to grow participation and newsletter reach (currently ~70 subscribers) via more widely distributed NASA/AAS channels. We suggest investigating "advertisement" avenues in other newsletters relevant to Euclid, such as MAST or Roman.
- **Bulge-field processing.** We understand that the Q2 crowded bulge field was not processed with the standard survey pipeline. The Science Working Group used a modified process that preserved the detector-level corrections while applying a custom algorithm for the crowded field, as described in arXiv:2606.25883. We appreciate this clarification, which is particularly useful for the US community interested in joint Roman-Euclid analysis of this region.

- **Calibration products.** Consistent with prior reports on reproducibility, we encourage ENSCI to document clearly which calibration and derived products will and will not be public for DR1, so users can plan accordingly.

Closing

The panel thanks the entire ENSCI team for their clear presentations and continued strong progress. ENSCI is doing a tremendous job preparing the US community to capitalize on Q1 and Q2 and to be ready for the DR1-Foundation and DR1-Complete releases. Given the scale of prior US investment in Euclid and the importance of these upcoming releases, we reiterate that stable, continued funding of ENSCI should remain a high priority for NASA. Keep up the great work!

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Weisz, on behalf of the ENSCI User Panel

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