



JOB OFFER

The Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy searches a junior scientist (PhD student) for its activities in the frame of the Interuniversity Attraction Pole « PLANET TOPERS » (Planets: Tracing the Transfer, Origin, Preservation, and Evolution of their ReservoirS)

Thanks to major funding from the Belgian Science Policy for the period 2012-2017, a scientific position at the PhD student level is available, starting in October 2012 to work on habitability of planets and moons of our solar system.

The position is offered in the frame of an Interuniversity Attraction Pole « PLANET TOPERS ». <http://iuap-planet-toppers.oma.be> provides a description of this research initiative and the partners.

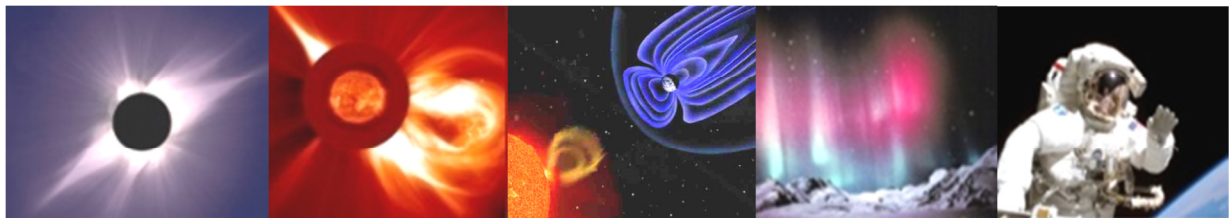
The PhD student contract will be for two years renewable up to 4 years, the postdoctoral positions will be one or two years and may be extended up to 5 years.

Starting dates are flexible. A first round is expected in October 2012, at the initiation of the project. However, applications will remain open during the five year course of Planet Toppers or until all positions are filled.

The Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BISA) is looking for a PhD student to strengthen the team that conducts research into the interaction between the upper atmosphere and magnetosphere of the terrestrial planets. The aim is to study the mass loss from the atmospheres of Venus, Earth, and Mars under the influence of solar electromagnetic and corpuscular radiation. This fits in the context of the overall TOPERS project that intends to trace the evolution of terrestrial planets. Both observational and modelling work is part of the project (e.g. use of Venus Express, Mars Express, and Cluster data).

Enthusiastic and motivated candidates are encouraged to apply even if they are not available on October 1st, 2012.

The competitive salary makes it possible to live comfortably in or to commute to Brussels and includes benefits.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The ideal candidate has an Academic Master Degree in Science or Engineering and is interested in doing a PhD in this field. The work will be done at research institute in collaboration with a promotor at a Belgian University, and combines many of the following characteristics:

- Scientific curiosity
- Strong interest in the field of space research
- Quick learner
- Creative and pragmatic problem-solving approach
- Capability to work in English
- Experience in programming (Matlab, IDL, C++) is a plus
- Some knowledge of plasma physics is welcome.

HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV with a cover letter and if possible two or three references (all in PDF format) by August 1st, 2012 to Johan De Keyser (Johan.DeKeyser@aeronomie.be, 02 37 30 368), Head of the Space Physics Division at BIRA-IASB, with copy to v.dehant@oma.be, Head of Operational Direction 'Reference Systems and Planetology' at ROB.

Assessment of applications will start in early August 2012. Commencement of employment on October 1st, 2012 or later.