JOB OFFERS

SENIOR RESEARCHER IN STELLAR ASTROPHYSICS

CONTEXT:

The Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) was founded in 1826 and is located in the municipality of Ukkel/Uccle (Brussels) since 1890. It is one of ten Federal Scientific Institutions with about a hundred and seventy employees, where research is carried out in four departments: reference systems and planetology, seismology and gravimetry, astronomy and astrophysics, and the Sun and space weather.

In the department astronomy and astrophysics there is a vacancy for a senior researcher.

The current activities of the about 10 scientists centre on various aspects related to stellar astrophysics. This includes the evolution and stellar winds around evolved (AGB, postAGB, planetary nebulae) and massive stars, the properties of double and multiple systems, the properties of several classes of variable stars (classical and Type-II Cepheids, Mira variables, β Cepheids, slowly pulsating B stars, δ Scuti, and γ Doradus stars), and local stellar distance indicators.

The department is actively involved in the Gaia DPAC consortium (related to the RVS instrument, the stellar parameterisation of emission line and hot stars, and the astrometry of Solar System bodies) and uses e.g. Kepler and TESS data for asteroseismic studies. Belgium is a member of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and the European Space Agency (ESA). As part of the HERMES consortium there is privileged access to a spectrograph on the 1.2-m Mercator telescope on La Palma. At a Belgian level there is the possibility of accessing the 4-m International Liquid Mirror Telescope and the 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope both located in India. Although the research in the department focuses on observational astronomy there is also expertise in photoionization modelling (the code CLOUDY) and hydrodynamical simulations.

More information on the activities of the department can be found on the website https://aa.oma.be/.

The ROB is a research institute and therefore this position does not come with teaching duties. However, there are scientists at the ROB that choose to combine their research position with a formal part-time teaching appointment at a Belgian university, and this is welcomed by the institute. The ROB also has an internal funding scheme to support doctoral theses in collaboration with Belgian universities.

TASKS:

• Carry out independent research in the domain of stellar astrophysics that strengthens and/or complements the current activities of the group.

• Actively seek additional funding via national and/or international research programs.

• Participation in HERMES@MERCATOR observing runs.
WE ASK:

• A doctoral degree in astronomy or astrophysics with at least two and at most 10 years of post-doctoral experience in research.

• Good knowledge of the English language. Good oral and written communication skills.

• Team player, but also able to work independently and showing initiative.

WE OFFER:

• A contract of indeterminate duration.

• Salary according to scales set by the federal government at the level of SW2.

• Free public transport from home to work, or bike compensation.

• Flexible working hours with a 38-hour work week (including the possibility of teleworking).

More information on working for the federal government (in Dutch and French) can be found on the site of FedWeb (https://fedweb.belgium.be/).

CANDIDACIES:

Send your cover letter, CV including publication list, and a research proposal of three pages (maximum) that describes your proposed research and interaction with the department over a five year period. Send this material in pdf format by e-mail to Martin Groenewegen (martin.groenewegen@oma.be) using “POSITION ASTRONOMY” as subject at the latest by November 15th, 2020. In your letter you must give the names and contact details of three persons who may be contacted regarding your professional experience.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview. Interviews may also be held by videoconference. Starting date is to be determined by mutual agreement.

For additional information about this position you can contact Martin Groenewegen (martin.groenewegen@oma.be)