



PhD Position in the Field of Far Infrared Astronomy with SOFIA

SOFIA is an airborne stratospheric 2.7m observatory dedicated for infrared astronomy. Jointly funded by NASA (USA) and DLR (Germany), SOFIA has commenced research at the beginning of this year. DSI (Deutsches SOFIA Institut) is part of the Institute of Space Systems (IRS) and manages the German contribution to SOFIA.

The Institute of Space systems invites applications for a PhD position in the field of far infrared astronomy with SOFIA. The position is funded by the University of Stuttgart for SOFIA through IRS. The successful candidate is expected to spend more than half a year in Palmdale, California where SOFIA is located.

One of the first generation scientific instruments for SOFIA is the cryogenic dual band far infrared imaging spectrometer FIFI-LS, operating between the wavelengths of 40 and 200 μm . It has been developed at the Max-Planck-Institute of Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching (Germany) and will be deployed with SOFIA in collaboration with the IRS. First observations with FIFI-LS have been scheduled for early 2013.



The successful applicant will become part of the FIFI-LS team and will be responsible for the tools used for preparing and executing astronomical observations with the instrument onboard SOFIA. He/She will be using FIFI-LS for research in infrared astronomy within the guaranteed time allocated for this instrument. He/She will also be involved in preparing the observational program, the observations themselves, and also the data reduction and interpretation.

Candidates should have a diploma, master, or equivalent in physics or astronomy, and should be fluent in English. Experience with astronomical (infrared) instrumentation and/or (astronomical) spectroscopy is an asset. Experience with astronomical software is appreciated.

Interested candidates should send their application, including a CV and a short description of research interests and experience, by email to the address below. Candidates should also arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent to the same address. Review of applications will begin on June 1, 2011, and continue until the position is filled.

For further inquiries and email submission of applications:

Contact: Prof. Dr. Alfred Krabbe, DSI, email: krabbe@dsi.uni-stuttgart.de

The University of Stuttgart is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and minorities are particularly welcome.