Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik
Max Planck Institute of Astrophysics

SCIENTIFIC SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

In early 2008 the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics (MPA) seeks to fill a 2-year fixed-term position (with the possibility of extension up to 5 years) for a scientific software developer in the framework of LOFAR, a radio astronomy project.

LOFAR (Low Frequency Array) is a new radio telescope array under construction by ASTRON in the Netherlands operating between 30 and 240 MHz. In this largely unexplored frequency range, LOFAR will be the dominant telescope over the next decade (see http://www.lofar.org). LOFAR capabilities will be further increased by an ongoing spatial extension of the array to European dimensions, to form a LOFAR European network. The construction of LOFAR remote stations in Germany has already started, including one built by MPA in the vicinity of Garching (see http://lofar.mpa-garching.mpg.de).

MPA is actively participating in two LOFAR key science projects, namely studies of cosmological reionization and of cosmic magnetism. The open position will initially focus on polarization calibration, and will be embedded in the technical teams of these science projects. Software development experience and algorithmic and mathematical skills are essential. Scientific and radio astronomical interests are desirable, though not essential, since the focus of later work will shift in that direction. Previous experience with interferometric radio astronomy is not required but would be a significant advantage.

An initial LOFAR training period at ASTRON (Dwingeloo, Netherlands) and regular (every couple of months) shorter visits to the same Institute are expected. Salary will be paid according to German civil service rates. Applicants should provide a CV and, when possible, reference letters. The deadline is December 31th, but late applications will be accepted until the post is filled. Please send applications in electronic form to:

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