Job ID: IWF035PD220

The Space Research Institute (IWF) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), Austria’s leading non-university research and science institution, is offering a

POST DOC POSITION (F*M)
(full-time, 40h per week)

on a one year Rosetta/MIDAS project for ESA.

The MIDAS atomic force microscope [1, 2] on-board the Rosetta comet orbiter collected and scanned micrometre-sized dust particles of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko [3]. Its dataset is a unique library containing structural information of cometary material that can be used to further our knowledge about the early solar system [4, 5]. The aim of the advertised project is to understand which properties of the MIDAS particles offer the best insight into questions about comets and our solar system.

Your tasks:

- Become acquainted with the dust measurements of MIDAS and its python library
- Study the particles on MIDAS’ collection facets and visualize the distribution on a map
- Investigate if the particles can be categorised in different cometary dust populations, e.g., according to their spread over the targets, or other criteria. Compare your categories to those found in related cometary dust datasets [6,7]
- Determine the least altered particles and the properties with the highest potential to have preserved information about comets or the early solar system

Your profile:

- PhD in physics or a similar area
- Knowledge of Python or a similar programming language
- Knowledge of comets, cometary dust, atomic force microscopy, or procedures during an ESA contract is beneficial but no prerequisite
- Highly self-motivated, ready to work with the diverse and international MIDAS and Rosetta team, willing to travel and present results at conferences and workshops
- Excellent English skills

We offer an annual gross salary of € 43,828,40 (before taxes) according to the collective agreement of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW).

Please send your applications including all relevant documents, certificates/references via e-mail to the project leader Dr. Thurid Mannel thurid.mannel@oeaw.ac.at (mentioning Job ID: IWF035PD220), no later than July 31, 2020.


The Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) pursues a non-discriminatory employment policy and values equal opportunities, as well as diversity. The OeAW lays special emphasis on increasing the number of women in senior and in academic positions. Given equal qualifications, preference will be given to female applicants.