

Applications are invited for a Staff Astronomer position at APEX (the Atacama Pathfinder EXperiment) located on Chajnantor near San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.

STAFF ASTRONOMER

CAREER PATH: V

Assignment: APEX is a sub-mm telescope presently being erected at the ALMA site of Chajnantor in Chile through a collaboration between the MPIfR, ESO and Sweden. The site is excellent for sub-mm observations, and the telescope will be equipped with bolometer arrays and heterodyne receivers for observations at sub-mm wavelengths as well as in the THz band. We seek one staff astronomer for APEX. He/she will join a team of scientists, engineers, and technicians, in total 20 people, responsible for the operation and maintenance of the antenna and its instrumentation. Astronomers will be part of the science operations group responsible to support observations, both in visitor mode and service mode, to develop calibration and quality control procedures for the instruments, to control the configuration of the system, and to develop operational procedures for the telescope including pointing models. The Science Operations team will consist of staff astronomers, fellows and telescope operators.

As an astronomer and member of the ESO Science Faculty, the successful candidate will be expected and encouraged to actively conduct astronomical research up to 50% of the time using APEX and other facilities. The APEX astronomers spend 105 nights per year carrying out functional duties in the APEX base in Sequitor and at the telescope, which is located on Chajnantor at an altitude of 5000 m, usually in a shift of 8 days in Sequitor with trips to Chajnantor, followed by 6 days off. The rest of their time is spent in the Santiago office. Scientific trips and stays at other institutions, also in Europe are foreseen.

Education: Ph.D. in Astronomy, Physics or equivalent

Experience and knowledge: APEX is seeking active a staff astronomer with a solid publication record in observational astronomy. Observational experience with (sub)mm telescopes will be an asset. At least three years of post-doctoral experience as well as excellent communication skills and a good command of the English language (spoken and written) will be required.

Duty station: Sequitor, Chajnantor and Santiago, Chile

Starting date: As soon as possible

Contract: The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term extension. Promotions will be based on scientific as well as functional achievements. It is necessary to take a high altitude medical examination before taking up the post.

Remuneration: We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax-free) and comprehensive social benefits. Furthermore, an expatriation allowance as well as some other allowances may be added. Either the title or the grade may be subject to change according to education and the number of years of experience.

Applications consisting of your CV (in English language) and the ESO Application Form (to be obtained from the ESO Home Page at <http://www.eso.org/>) and four letters of reference

should be submitted by 7 May 2004.

For further information, please consult the ESO Home Page or contact Mrs. Nathalie Kastelyn.

Applications are invited for a Staff Astronomer position in the Science Operations Department at the VLT Observatory on Cerro Paranal near Antofagasta, Chile.

OPERATIONS STAFF ASTRONOMER (VLT)

CAREER PATH: V

Assignment: The first components of the VLT Interferometric Array (VLTi), including the science instruments MIDI and AMBER, are currently being commissioned. Scientific operations of the VLTi are expected to start in the first half of 2004. The successful candidate will support observing operations in both visitor and service mode at the VLTi. The tasks to be performed include the short-term (flexible) scheduling of queue observations, the calibration and monitoring of the instruments, and the assessment of the scientific quality of the astronomical data. The VLTi astronomer will contribute to the challenge of operating a world leading astronomical facility so as to optimize its scientific output, will acquire expert knowledge of novel instrumentation and techniques, and may be given the overall responsibility for an instrument.

Operations astronomers may be members of the ESO Science Faculty, with an appointment at the level of Assistant or Associate Astronomer. They will be expected and encouraged to actively conduct astronomical research up to 50% of the time. 105 nights per year are spent at the observatory carrying out functional duties, usually in a shift of 8 days on Paranal, 6 days off. The rest of the time is spent at the Santiago office. Depending on qualification, expertise, and personal interest, Operations Astronomers may alternatively be offered an appointment with up to 20% of the time for personal research and 150 days per year to be spent on the observatory. Financial support for scientific trips and stays at other institutions, including in Europe, is foreseen for all VLT Operations Astronomers.

Education: PhD in Astronomy, Physics or equivalent.

Experience and knowledge: The successful candidate combines substantial observing experience (at least 3 years) with active research and has observation oriented research records. Familiarity with a broad range of instrumental, data analysis, archiving, and observational techniques is required. He/She must be conversant with at least one major data reduction package such as MIDAS, iraf or IDL. Of special value would be a record of instrumental experience, such as the participation in the design, construction or calibration of existing instruments, as well as experience in telescope and instrument operations. Experience in any area of observational interferometry would also be an asset. Excellent communication skills, a good command of the English language, a working knowledge of Spanish or a willingness to learn and a strong sense of team spirit are essential.

Duty station: Paranal and Santiago, Chile.

Starting date: As soon as possible.

Contract: The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term extension or permanence. Promotions will be based on scientific as well as functional achievements.

Remuneration: We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax-free), comprehensive social benefits, and provide financial support in relocating families. Furthermore, an expatriation allowance as well as some other allowances may be added. Either the title or the grade may be subject to change according to education and the number of years of experience.

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Although preference will be given to nationals of the Member States of ESO: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom, no nationality is a priori excluded. The post is equally open to suitably qualified male and female applicants.