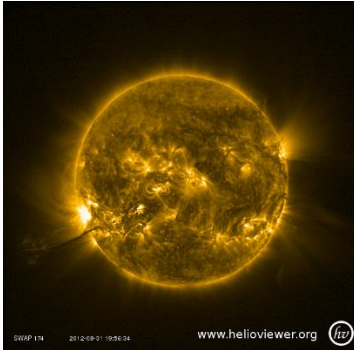




JOB OPENING

The Royal Observatory of Belgium seeks a NEW SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATOR for its SPACE WEATHER ACTIVITIES



The Sun is the only star that has a significant impact on life on Earth. The space environment around Earth, which is variable and can change rapidly, is known as "Space Weather," and it is influenced by solar activity. Solar flares, coronal mass ejections, and solar energetic particles can all affect the Earth's environment on timescales ranging from minutes to days. On longer timescales, the 11-year sunspot cycle determines the seasons of space weather.

Our society is highly dependent on space technology, and as such, it is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the short-term variations in space weather. These variations can have a significant impact on communication and GNSS services, among others. To mitigate the potential effects of space weather, it is crucial to monitor solar activity continuously and improve our understanding of how it affects the Earth's environment. By doing so, we can better prepare for and mitigate any adverse effects on our technology and infrastructure.

As a federal scientific institute, the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) provides services to citizens, industry, and government through alerts and predictions for space weather. These Space Weather activities are being developed further through support from the European Space Agency ESA (S2P - "Space Safety Program") and PECASUS (Space weather services for ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization). Within the framework of the Space Safety Programme (S2P), ROB is responsible for coordinating/operating SSA Space Weather Coordination Centre (SSCC) and the Solar Weather Expert Service Centre (S-ESC). Both entities play a key role in the establishment of a network of space weather services targeting a large user community whose operational systems can be severely affected by Space Weather.

To ensure the successful continuation of our operations in this highly competitive international context, ROB is seeking a collaborator to further develop and support its space weather services.

The successful candidate will take a coordinating role in the development and provision of space weather services, particularly in the development and coordination of the ESA S2P projects and the SSCC. The successful candidate will be responsible for a team of scientific and technical experts in the execution operational activities (such as software releases, configuration management updates and operational reporting) as well as providing a clear vision and leadership for the development of new workflows and tools as part of the development activities.

The successful candidate will also be involved in operational surveillance and forecasting of

space weather, including on-call operation and shift work. The candidate will also contribute to the further development of these forecasting activities in synergy with the international project support and provision provided.

The collaborator will work as part of the ROB-SIDC (Solar Influence Data Analysis Centre), a leading space weather forecast center at the European level.

Tasks

The offered position involves:

- Coordination and management of projects with (inter)national partners: in particular ESA/S2P projects.
- Active support for establishing and maintaining strong synergy between these projects and the internal SIDC operational service provider activity.
- Coordinating a sub-team to ensure seamless service provision and timely project deliverables.
- Overseeing and contributing to a range of engagement activities for users of the space weather services.
- Contribution to the conceptual design of the IT-infrastructure, interfaces and templates in support of the space weather services (both generally and specifically for the ESA-S2P).
- Contributing to the elaboration of documentation and procedures for space weather operators and forecasters.
- Operational surveillance and forecasting of space weather, including on-call operation and shift work.

Profile

The selected candidate must:

- Hold a PhD degree in exact sciences with master diploma recognized in Belgium [*].
- Have experience in Solar Physics, Space Weather or related Space Sciences.
- Experience with operational (Space Weather) services.
- Experience with the management or execution of (international) projects.
- Experience managing a team.
- Proven track record of writing proposals and reports for ESA
- Be capable of working within an environment with strict and well-defined procedures, while also being able to define and implement appropriate new procedures.
- Have excellent communication skills in English.

The following experience is considered advantageous:

- Experience with interacting with End Users of provided services.
- Experience with Project management tools such as JIRA.
- Acquaintance with software repository tools such as GitHub.
- Acquaintance with UNIX and at least one programming language.

ROB offers

The ROB (<http://www.observatory.be>) is a Belgian federal institute located in the green outskirts of Brussels in Ukkel. The institute is seeking a qualified candidate for a job opening in the “Solar Physics and Space Weather” Operational Directorate (<https://www.sidc.be>), which is a group of dedicated international scientists and engineers. The working conditions include a flexible system of working hours and teleworking, allowing for a healthy work-life balance.

The job offer is a **full-time position** in the SW2 category. To get an estimate of the salary, a simulator is available at <https://salsim.fedweb.belgium.be/mod2-q1.php>. The position is for a **one-year contract**, renewable based on mutual satisfaction.

How to apply

Send your CV and an accompanying motivation letter as soon as possible to judith.depatoul@oma.be and dir-rob@oma.be. Candidates can contact Dr. Judith de Patoul for additional information. Applications are welcome until **September 24, 2023**.

[*] If your master was awarded outside of Belgium, the Netherlands and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, you will need a certificate to demonstrate the equivalence of your degree (see https://www.belgium.be/en/education/equivalence_of_diplomas) before we can offer you a contract.

