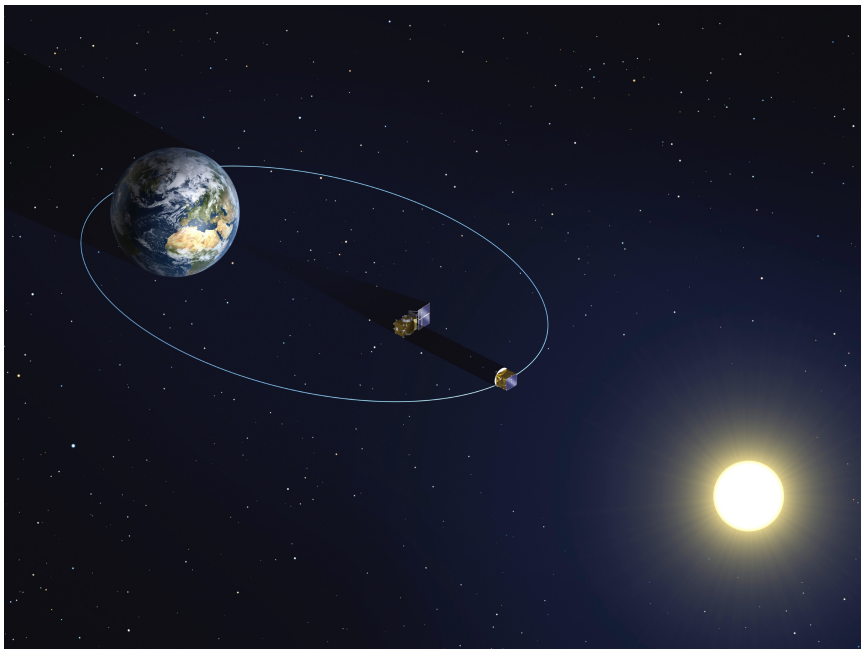
Job Opening: Scientist

To work on the *PROBA-3/ASPIICS coronagraph*



We are looking for a scientist who will join the PI team of the ASPIICS coronagraph onboard the PROBA-3 mission that will be launched in mid-2023. The selected candidate will participate in fulfilling the tasks of the ASPIICS science team that currently include: development of the software infrastructure of the PROBA–3 Science Operations Center, preparation of the data calibration, design of the instrument in-flight calibration, and the design of science operations. The successful candidate will also pursue solar physics research in preparation of the scientific exploitation of the ASPIICS data, and publish results in refereed journals.

PROBA-3/ASPIICS

PROBA (PRoject for On-Board Autonomy) is an ESA program of small technology demonstration satellites. PROBA-3, to be launched in mid-2023, is a mission dedicated to the in-flight demonstration of precise formation flying techniques and technologies.

The PROBA-3 mission will place two spacecraft in a highly elliptical orbit around the Earth. The two spacecraft will fly in a precise formation, producing a very long baseline coronagraph called ASPIICS (Association of Spacecraft for Polarimetric and Imaging Investigation of the Corona of the Sun). One spacecraft will carry the optical telescope, and the second spacecraft will carry the external occulter of the coronagraph. The inter-satellite distance of around 150 m will allow observing the corona close to the solar limb with very low straylight.

ROYAL OBSERVATORY OF BELGIUM (ROB)

The ROB (http://www.observatory.be/) is a Belgian federal institute in the green outskirts of Brussels (Uccle). The PROBA-3 team at ROB is embedded in the "Solar Physics and Space Weather" Operational Directorate (http://sidc.be), which is an international group of scientists and engineers.

New employees at ROB are offered a 1-year contract, which, after mutual satisfaction, can be extended by 1 year and eventually by a contract of undetermined duration. The present position will be at the SW2 (Work Leader) salary scale. Social security, pension scheme and working conditions are according to Belgian contractual civil servant regulations. These include a flexible system of working hours and teleworking.

YOUR PROFILE

The ideal candidate will combine a maximum of the following characteristics:

- PhD in solar physics or in a related field of astrophysics,
- experience with observational solar physics, in particular, coronal physics,
- experience with design, development and on-ground calibration of optical instrumentation,
- programming skills, in particular in IDL (Interactive Data Language) and/or Python,
- experience in data analysis and calibration,
- experience in in-flight calibration and operations planning of space science missions,
- fluent communication in written and spoken English.

HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV, list of publications, and a motivation letter as soon as possible to the Principal Investigator of PROBA-3/ASPIICS, Dr. Andrei Zhukov (Andrei.Zhukov@sidc.be). Questions and requests for more information should be sent to the same e-mail address.

The position is available immediately. The application deadline is **30 June 2021**.