Postdoctoral research position at the IRAM node of the European ALMA Regional Center

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Closing date: September 1st 2010

Applications are invited for an astronomer position at IRAM headquarters (Grenoble). IRAM (http://www.iram-institute.org) operates two of the largest and technologically most advanced millimeter facilities in the world: an interferometer of six 15-meter antennas located at Plateau de Bure in the Alps (France), and a 30-meter single-dish telescope located in the Sierra Nevada (Spain). In addition, IRAM is heavily involved in the construction of ALMA, the world’s largest mm/submm observatory currently under deployment in Chile. To prepare for the arrival of ALMA, IRAM has established an ALMA scientific support center, which forms a node of the European ALMA Regional Center (ARC, the ALMA user support and data center). The tasks of the IRAM ARC node are to provide user support, including face-to-face support for data reduction, and to participate to ALMA-related scientific software developments.

In that context, IRAM is opening an astronomer position within the ARC node, to prepare both scientifically and technically the first ALMA call for proposals. The successful candidate is expected to invest 50% of her/his time on astronomical research in (sub)millimeter astronomy; and 50% to participate in the activities of the IRAM ARC node, test and optimize data reduction scripts, and later provide technical expertise in the analysis and interpretation of data to visiting astronomers.

The current position offers exciting opportunities for astronomers to work with world-class research facilities, prepare for the advent of ALMA, and pursue their career in a very dynamic and competitive field of research. The research program of IRAM astronomers covers a wide range of subjects from ISM chemistry, young stellar objects, late stage stellar evolution, to extragalactic research at low and high redshift.

We are seeking candidates with a PhD in astronomy, preferably with a demonstrated observational experience or a strong interest in (sub)millimeter interferometry. Experiences in developing software applications and/or using the CASA data reduction software are welcome. Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae, bibliography and statement of research interests, and arrange for letters of reference, no later than September 1st, 2010. The appointment is initially for two years with a possibility of extension, and could start as early as possible. Applications are to be submitted by email to the IRAM Director (cox@iram.fr) and to the IRAM personnel department (indigo@iram.fr). Questions should be directed to the IRAM Head of Astronomy (neri@iram.fr, phone: +33-(0)476824982) and to the IRAM ARC node manager (gueth@iram.fr, phone: +33-(0)476824934).

1 The European ALMA activities are managed by ESO, the European Southern Observatory.