

# Job Opening: Scientific Software Developer

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



We are looking for a developer of scientific software who will join the Principal Investigator Team of the ASPIICS coronagraph onboard the PROBA-3 mission that will be launched in 2020.

The selected candidate will participate in the development of the software infrastructure of the PROBA-3 Science Operations Center. This includes among others: (1) the data

processing pipeline that transforms the telemetry data in scientifically useful data products, (2) an interface to produce and upload new commanding for the ASPIICS instrument, (3) software for monitoring the instrument health.

The successful candidate might also be asked in a later phase to participate in related solar visualisation and space

## *PROBA-3/ASPIICS*

PROBA (PROject for On-Board Autonomy) is an ESA program of small technology demonstration satellites. PROBA-3, to be launched in 2020, 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.

For more information, please check out

[http://www.esa.int/Our\\_Activities/Space\\_Engineering\\_Technology/Proba\\_Missions/ESA\\_s\\_Proba-3\\_will\\_create\\_artificial\\_solar\\_eclipses](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Engineering_Technology/Proba_Missions/ESA_s_Proba-3_will_create_artificial_solar_eclipses)

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## 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. English is the baseline language spoken in the office, official ROB communication is available in French and Dutch. New employees at ROB are offered a 1-year con-



tract, which, after mutual satisfaction, can be extended by 1 year and eventually by a contract of undetermined duration. The present position will be at either the SW1 or the SW2 salary scale depending on the CV of the candidate. 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.

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## YOUR PROFILE

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

- Master degree (or PhD) in engineering, computer sciences or exact sciences
- extensive familiarity with the Linux environment
- proven experience with programming, comfortable with the C, Python, Java programming languages.
- previous exposure to solar physics, or astrophysics in general, is a plus
- familiarity with ESA/ECSS project management and documentation is a plus
- fluent communication in written and spoken English.

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## HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV, list of publications, and a motivation letter to the Development Manager of the PROBA-3 Science Center, Bogdan Nicula ([Bogdan.Nicula@sidc.be](mailto:Bogdan.Nicula@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 **2017 November 22**.