

# JOB OPENING

## THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY OF BELGIUM (ROB) SEEKS A COLLABORATOR FOR ITS SPACE WEATHER ACTIVITIES



The Sun is the only star which has a profound impact on life on Earth. The variable state of the space environment around Earth is called “Space Weather” and it is driven by the solar activity. Solar flares, coronal mass ejection and solar energetic particles influence the Earth environment on time-scales from minutes to days.

On longer time scales, the 11-year Sunspot cycle sets the seasons of space weather. Our current society, with its large dependence on technology in space in particular, is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the short time scale variations in space weather, impacting for example communication or GNSS services.

As a federal Belgian institute, the Royal Observatory of Belgium, provides services to citizens, industry and government by means of alerts and predictions for space weather. This job opening is part of the “SIDC-RWC”, a leading space weather forecast center at European level. These Space Weather activities are increasingly developed through support by the European Space Agency ESA (“Space Situational Awareness” Program, SSA). Recently, ICAO (*International Civil Aviation Organisation*) selected this center also as part of a consortium to deliver 24h/7d space weather services to the civil aviation actors worldwide. To assure the successful continuation of our operations in this competitive international context, the Royal Observatory of Belgium seeks a collaborator for the further development and support of its space weather services.

### Tasks

The offered position will involve the support of the space weather services at IT as well as at scientific/conceptual level. The tasks will include:

- participation in the operational duties for the surveillance and forecasting of space weather.
- participation in the management & execution of ESA/SSA projects related to space weather;
- participation in the setup and maintenance of the IT-infrastructure in support of the space weather services (both generally and specifically for the ESA-SSA and ICAO context)

### Profile

The minimal conditions to apply for this job are:

- Master or PhD. in (exact) sciences or engineering;
- experience with at least 1 programming language;
- communicate fluently in English.

In addition, the selected candidate will combine a maximum of the following characteristics:

- experience in Solar Physics, Space Weather or related Space Sciences;
- be acquainted with UNIX
- experience with the management or execution of international projects.

### ROB offers

The ROB (<http://www.observatory.be/>) is a Belgian federal institute in the green outskirts of Brussels (Ukkel). The job opening is in the “Solar Physics and Space Weather” Operational Directorate (<http://sidc.be>), a small, international group of dedicated scientists and engineers. English is the baseline language spoken at the office. The working conditions include a flexible system of working hours and teleworking. The offered position is immediately available and will be scaled SW1 or SW2 depending on the qualifications of the candidate.

### How to apply

Send your CV and an accompanying motivation letter as soon as possible to [jesse.andries@sidc.be](mailto:jesse.andries@sidc.be) with in cc: [david.berghmans@sidc.be](mailto:david.berghmans@sidc.be). Candidates can contact Dr. Jesse Andries (+32 2 790 39 69) for additional information. Applications are welcome till June 23 2019 included.

