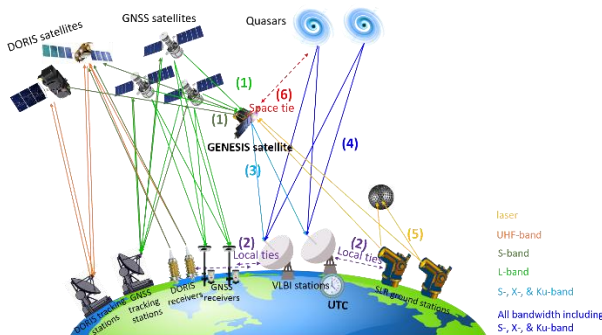




JOB OFFER

The Royal Observatory of Belgium is looking for a scientist for its activities in the frame of the PRODEX project on GENESIS



Thanks to an important support from the PRODEX (Program for the Development of Scientific Experiments) program managed by ESA (the European Space Agency) in collaboration with the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office, a position for a scientist will be available in the frame of the GENESIS mission for the period 2024-2025.

GENESIS will be launched in 2027. It is the first-ever satellite with all four space-based geodetic techniques on-board, namely Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR), Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) and Doppler Orbitography and Radio-positioning Integrated by Satellite (DORIS). The main mission objective is to improve the international terrestrial coordinate frame (International Terrestrial Reference Frame, ITRF). Furthermore, the GENESIS mission will allow to improve the International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF), and thereby the link between the two frames, and thus the Earth Orientation Parameters (EOP). The Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) participates in the GENESIS mission by ensuring that it can achieve its scientific goals and follows the development of the novel VLBI transmitter (VT) as well as its scientific use.

The position will be fulfilled starting from January 2024, to work within the work package that has the objective to follow the VLBI Transmitter (VT) development with space industry. The work will address mainly the VT scientific requirements and performances to assure its compatibility and operability with existing and future VLBI ground stations and its performances so that the data would be exploited at their full potential. This WP includes thus assessment, implementation and verification of VT functionalities for compatibility and operability with existing and future VLBI ground stations (VGOS and legacy VLBI networks). It also includes the assessment of using the VT as calibration reference in sky for VLBI stations for the CRF realization as well as the assessment of proper clock/space-ties between the VT instrument and the other geodetic techniques onboard. The position will require taking responsibility within the team. Starting dates are flexible. The employment is expected to start in January 2024 or after. We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated scientist or engineer, even if he/she is not available on January 1st, 2024.

We offer a competitive salary following the salary scale SW2 for federal government academic staff, flexible working conditions and additional benefits.

The position is for a two-years contract, renewable based on mutual satisfaction.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The candidate must have a PhD in Science or Engineering. Students who are at the end of their PhD studies and who will get their doctorate diploma in a reasonable timing (less than 3 months from the application deadline) may also apply.

He/she must possess several of the following characteristics:

- strong interest in the field of space geodesy,
- experience/knowledge in instrument development, in geodesy in particular,
- experience in space project management,
- experience in electronics and/or radio instruments,
- scientific curiosity,
- creative and pragmatic problem-solving approach,
- capability to work in a team,
- capability to work in English.

If the master degree was awarded outside of Belgium, the Netherlands and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, a certificate to demonstrate the diploma equivalence will be needed during the procedure of the contract elaboration (see

https://www.belgium.be/en/education/equivalence_of_diplomas).

HOW TO APPLY

Send a full CV (including grades), a motivation letter, and two or three reference names by October 31, 2023, to v.dehant@oma.be, Head of Operational Direction 'Reference Systems and Planetology' at ROB. The beginning of employment will be on January 1st, 2024, or later.