

Specialists from various disciplines work together at SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research to push back the frontiers of technology, and with this to advance the boundaries of scientific knowledge. SRON is considered to be a global leader in the area of earth and space science, due to the space instruments it develops for the satellites of NASA and ESA.

The High-Energy Astrophysics Division of SRON has a vacancy for a

PhD student

(vacancy number SRON 08-09)

SRON, Netherlands Institute for Space Research and Utrecht University invite applications for a PhD position.

The 4-year PhD project is observational in nature. The prospective PhD Student will mainly work on Chandra and XMM-Newton X-ray spectroscopic data of ultra-compact X-ray binaries (systems with orbital periods less than 80 minutes). The goal of the project is to learn about the abundances of the gas that are accreted by the neutron star or black hole X-ray sources. The observed abundances can constrain the binary evolution models that are proposed for the formation of these systems.

The PhD student will be based in Utrecht, the Netherlands and work under the supervision of dr. Peter Jonker and prof. dr. Frank Verbunt. There are close collaborations with several other universities in the Netherlands for this project among which the Radboud University Nijmegen.

Interested applicants are invited to contact dr. Peter Jonker by August 15, 2008. Applicants must have a Master's degree in (Astro)physics or Astronomy or equivalent.

Employment conditions: The full-time position at SRON-Utrecht, is by NWO (the Dutch Organization for Science) and will be for a period of four years. The salary will be in accordance with official salary scales for PhD positions at NWO: a starter salary of € 1979,- gross per month to a maximum of € 2536,- gross per month in the fourth year on a full-time basis. NWO has good secondary employment conditions such as 42 days of vacation leave and an end of year bonus of 6,1%.

Further information: dr. Peter Jonker, SRON, Utrecht, tel.no. +31 (0) 30 253 8577.

Letter of application: Applicants should send a full CV and the name(s) and address(es) of reference(s) (with a maximum of two, incl. phone and email), as well as a short outline of their knowledge and experience to SRON by email at pz@sron.nl or by regular mail to the Department of Personnel and Organization, Sorbonnelaan 2, 3584 CA Utrecht, The Netherlands. Please state the vacancy number SRON 08-09 on letter and envelope. Applications will be accepted until August 15, 2008.