



The Thüringer Landessternwarte Tautenburg (Thuringia State Observatory, TLS) is seeking a highly motivated and dedicated astronomer to fill the position of

Postdoctoral Research Assistant

for the project "Exploring the Diversity of Exoplanets in the Mass-Density Diagram". This project is funded through the DFG Priority Program SPP1992: "Exploring the Diversity of Extrasolar Planets".

Our program will characterize exoplanets in terms of their masses, radii and densities using transiting planets found by the K2 and in the near future TESS transit search missions. This work is collaboration between the Rhenish Institute for Environmental Research at Cologne University (RIU), Cologne and the German Aerospace Center (DLR), Berlin-Adlershof. Our team is involved with all aspects of exoplanet transit studies: light curve processing, transit detections, transit light curve modeling, planet mass determination via Doppler measurements and the determination of the stellar parameters of the host stars.

The duties of the successful candidate are: 1) To help secure telescope resources for follow-up observations of transiting candidates, 2) to conduct observations primarily using high-resolution spectrographs, 3) to aid in the removal of false positive detections, 4) to determine the mass of transiting planet and 5) to derive stellar parameters of the host stars from spectral data. Applicants should have a PhD in astronomy or related fields. The postdoc will work closely with our colleagues in Cologne and Berlin. Desired attributes of the candidate include: Experience in observational high resolution stellar spectroscopy and precise radial velocity measurements, experience in the field of exoplanet research, a knowledge of time series analysis, and the extraction of periodic signals in the presence of stellar noise. A proven track record of writing successful observing proposals is especially desirable.

TLS provides an excellent environment for astronomical research that encourages creativity and initiative. Located in the Tautenburg forest our institute is 19 km north of the university town of Jena and 2-3 hours by train to the German capital of Berlin. We operate a 2-m optical telescope equipped with a wide field Schmidt Camera and high-resolution coude spectrograph. We are part of Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) radio telescope and we have our own LOFAR station. TLS offers a vibrant research environment with a scientific staff that works on such diverse areas exoplanets, stars and star formation, stellar oscillations, gamma ray bursts, quasars, and galaxy clusters. Our institute maintains a cooperation with the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. Further information can be found at www.tls-tautenburg.de.

TLS is committed to diversifying the scientific and academic environment in Germany and fostering career opportunities for women and minorities. Qualified women and minorities are thus particularly encouraged to apply.

The nominal starting date is November 1, 2017 and is a limited contract for 3 years under the German pay grade 13 TV-L.

Applications should apply by October 1, 2017. The application should include a curriculum vitae, a publication list, a motivation letter, and the names of at least two persons who can be contacted for letters of references. Applications can be sent in electronic form or regular post to:

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