

Open Position at the Astronomical Institute of the University of Bern

The Astronomical Institute of the University of Bern (AIUB) has successfully concluded the grant preparation phase with the European Commission to launch the project

Unifying the three pillars of geodesy using space ties (SPACE TIE)

in response to the European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant Call 2018 of the Horizon 2020 European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. In the frame of the SPACE TIE project funding will be available for a

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (Position No. 2)

SPACE TIE shall pave the way to unify the “three pillars” of Geodesy in future realizations of the terrestrial reference frame by connecting satellite geodetic techniques, in particular Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR), by co-location sites in space. These so-called space ties shall be realized on satellites of the currently existing space infrastructure, as well as on satellites due for launch in the near future. This includes the Medium Earth Orbits (MEO) of the GNSS satellites and, in particular, satellites in Low Earth Orbits (LEO) with GNSS and SLR co-located on-board. To maximize the sensitivity to the Earth’s gravity field, the ultra-precise inter-satellite ranging between LEO satellites of dedicated gravity missions shall be added as a third satellite geodetic technique.

The position of the research assistant is scheduled for three years of the SPACE TIE project. The tasks of the research assistant will focus on the set up of a global multi-GNSS solution using undifferenced GNSS data, the further development of undifferenced carrier phase ambiguity resolution techniques, and the realization of co-locations on GNSS and LEO satellites with results from fully consistent SLR analyses. Significant effort shall be devoted on technical upgrades of the Bernese GNSS Software needed to realize the new global multi-GNSS solutions using undifferenced data. The activities will be performed in collaboration with the Center for Orbit Determination in Europe (CODE), one of the global analysis centers of the International GNSS Service (IGS).

Education:

The candidate is expected to have successfully completed a Ph.D. thesis in astronomy, geodesy, physics, or a related topic. Experience in GNSS data processing, SLR data processing, or using the Bernese GNSS Software package, and in computer science (coding in Fortran90, C++, Python, or Perl) are not a requirement, but an advantage. The candidate should speak and write English fluently.

The candidate should start working in Bern as soon as possible.

The position is scheduled for three years with an option for an extension to five years. The salary follows the guidelines of the University of Bern and depends on the qualification of the successful candidate.

Application:

Applications (including CV, university diploma copies, record of study, possible references) should be received as soon as possible but no later than April 30, 2019 at the following (first) address:

Prof. Dr. Adrian Jäggi
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Informal inquiries may be obtained at both of the above addresses.

The University of Bern is an equal opportunity employer and encourages in particular women to apply for open positions.