Cosmic Origins Support Scientist

Applications are now being accepted for a part-time scientist to work in the Cosmic Origins Program at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, MD. The successful candidate will be a University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) employee, funded through the for Research and Exploration in Space Sciences & Technology II (CRESST II).

The Cosmic Origins Program is looking for a scientist to work in close collaboration with the Cosmic Origins Program Chief Scientist and Deputy Chief Scientist to fulfill the following general responsibilities:

- Communicate important science and policy issues. Conceive and draft email announcements to the Cosmic Origins science community. Update the format and appearance of these announcements. Evaluate and improve their effectiveness.
- Keep abreast of the latest research in Cosmic Origins science. Aggregate science highlights for agency reviews and external communications. Evaluate recent science results against broad strategic goals and priorities as established by National Academies (esp. Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey) and NASA Science Strategy.
- Engage the science community. Facilitate the scheduling, structure, and running of Cosmic Origins meetings during scientific conferences including, but not limited to, splinter sessions of the American Astronomical Society meetings. Devise new ways to engage the Cosmic Origins science community to achieve program objectives.

The successful candidate will be responsible for performing specific tasks within these general responsibilities. The specific tasks include writing, editing, and submitting content to be broadcast through regular email communications to the Cosmic Origins science community; contributing and preparing summary reports of important, recent science advances for regular program reviews and external presentations; providing scientific advice to administrative staff in support of website content, communications, and other programmatic activities; and co-leading weekly Cosmic Origins Support Staff meetings to manage progress associated with conference preparation, communications, and the website. The successful candidate will also keep abreast of important science and policy issues relevant to Cosmic Origins through email notifications from agencies and organizations such as the American Astronomical Society, American Institute of Physics, National Academies, NASA, and the National Science Foundation.

Restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic may require that the successful candidate work remotely, at least initially. We would expect the candidate to transition to on-site work once GSFC resumes full on-site access, but this expectation can be discussed as part of the hiring process.

Candidates should have a Ph.D. in Physics, Astronomy, or a related field. The position is open to those with a wide range of experience and qualifications. The initial funding for this position will be for up to half-time support for one year, starting as early as February 21, 2022, with the possibility of extension depending on performance and funding availability. Candidates should send a complete application – which includes a cover letter, Curriculum Vitae, and contact information for three references – to Ms. Katherine McKee (katherine.s.mckee@nasa.gov) by January 20, 2022, for full consideration. The position will remain available until filled.
For more information about the duties or the Cosmic Origins Program, contact Dr. Peter Kurczynski (peter.kurczynski@nasa.gov). For information on UMCP and CRESST II, contact Dr. Tracy Huard (thuard@umd.edu).

Offers of employment are contingent on completion of a background check. A prior criminal conviction or convictions will not automatically disqualify a finalist from employment in the position.

All students, faculty, and staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID. Proof of full vaccination will be required before the start of employment in order to work at any University of Maryland location.

The University of Maryland, College Park, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action; all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, creed, marital status, political affiliation, personal appearance, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment, in all aspects of employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.