Job Announcement for a Associate Professor at the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is seeking to recruit a Associate Professor for the Department of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), as described below:

1. Title and Number of Position(s)
One Associate Professor (Academic Staff)

2. Department
Department of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS)

3. Summary of Position (Duties and Required Abilities)
In the field of space astronomy and astrophysics, the goals of JAXA/Institute of Space and Aeronautical Science (ISAS) are to “understand the origins of the space-time and matters” and to “study the possibility of life in the universe”. To address these goals, especially to understand the process of structure formation in the universe and their variety and universality, ISAS promotes satellite missions for observations in various wavelength from X-ray to infrared, and radio.

For this call for a Associate Professor, we expect application by the researcher who is engaged not only to proceed the on-going ISAS space missions projects but also to pioneer space missions in astrophysics or fundamental physics targeting launch in 2030’s and to lead development of key technology for the purpose.

The themes of basic research or development of key technologies for the future space missions in astrophysics currently considered (*) includes the following.

- highly precise optical control and signal processing required for the new fields of space astrophysics such as gravitational wave experiments or exoplanet observations, or the new observational method based on development in space engineering, such as space interferometry (for examples, those for gravitational wave experiments, infrared, or radio
observations) using the formation flight technology.

- Development of the detector/sensor systems or the extremely light-weighted mirror systems that can bring significant capabilities or efficiency in terms of field of view, sensitivity, or resolutions in astrophysical observations in the science fields with the JAXA heritage, e.g., X-ray or optical/infrared astronomy.

(*) We here refer “Technology roadmap for space science and exploration missions (2019)” (only in Japanese)

ISAS will continuously formulate and establish the strategic core space missions for astrophysics in 2030’s, not constrained to the previous research fields, utilizing development of technology to pioneer new fields in space science or development of new prominent observational methods, based on the views and prospects of the Japanese space science communities. The Associate Professor for this position is expected to actively work on basic research and key technology study to lead the development of a new space mission concept with the close communication and collaboration with the relevant science community.

The Job Description of this Associate Professor therefore includes,

a. To participate and contribute the development of the current space science mission candidates that ISAS has selected or will select.

b. To actively lead and work on the strategic development of the key technology with his/her prospect for a future ISAS core science mission concept.

c. As a JAXA Academic Staff, to collaborate with university researchers understanding the idea of inter-university research and the role of JAXA/ISAS, as well as to take initiative in participating the activities inside JAXA to make contributions in study, development, projects, and education of young students and researchers to contribute future space development and activities.

To fulfill these duties, the successful candidate needs to satisfy, at minimum, the following conditions.

- Have advanced achievements in instrumentation and research for space science missions, or in space or ground-based observational or experimental research in astrophysics,
- Be capable of teaching and directing graduate students
4. Terms and Conditions
(1) Salary will be determined according to the provisions of JAXA wage rules and regulations, considering ability and experience.
(2) Working days: Monday – Friday, except Japanese national holidays, year-end and new-year holidays, annual vacation, WLB annual leave, celebration or condolence leave, maternity leave, child-care leave, care leave, nursing leave, volunteer activities, etc.
(3) Office hours: 9:30-17:45, in principle, with a recess from 12:15 to 13:00 (however, a discretionary labor system is applied).
(4) Overtime work: may be required (however, a discretionary labor system is applied, and working hours per day are regarded as 7.5 hours).
(5) Work Place: JAXA Sagamihara campus (ISAS), Kanagawa, Japan.
(6) Tenure and retirement age: a tenure position. Retirement at the age of 63.
(7) Lodgings: lodgings suitable for a family or a single occupant may be provided according to the provisions of JAXA considering the necessity for the work. (Maximum lodging term is 7 years.) An allowance for lodging may be paid as an alternative measure.
(8) Social insurances: Provided in full. (health insurance, pension plan, etc.)

5. Eligibility
PhD degree is required.

6. Commencement of Assignment
At the earliest possible date after selection. Some coordination might be needed depending on JAXA’s budget situation.

7. Application Documents
(1) Curriculum vitae
(2) Research career
(3) Outline of previous researches
(4) List of research papers (impact factors or sited number shall be specified)
(5) Future research plan (including contribution to projects and ambitions for educational activities)

Please include the research plan for the points “a” and “b” in the job description above.
(6) List of awarded competitive research funds obtained so far (type of funds, amounts, investigator type (principal investigator or co-investigator))
(7) If the applicant is recommended by others, the names, institutions, and contact
information (telephone number and email address) of two people who can submit a necessary letter of recommendation. If the applicant recommends himself/herself, the names, institutions, and contact information (telephone number and email address) of two people who can submit a reference letter.

(8) Electronic versions or scanned copies major research papers (less than five) published in refereed academic journals

※If you are a resident of the European Economic Area (the EU zone), you are required to submit the following document as well.

(9) Consent form for handling personal information based on GDPR (Form NO.1). Download the form from the website listed in “8. Submission”.

8. Submission
Submit the application through the following website:
https://isas-appli-form.jaxa.jp/forms1/1597798706

When submitting the documents, please follow the instructions in the above website. All of the files to be uploaded shall be in the pdf format. Note that documents (2) to (6) should be put into one pdf file.

If the applicant is recommended by others, we will request recommender(s) to directly upload their letters of recommendation to the website. (This request will be automatically sent to the email addresses of recommender(s) specified by the applicant.) We will not basically accept any application forms sent by mail or brought directly by the applicant.

9. Application Deadline
Monday, November 2, 2020, 9:30 (JST).
Applies to both web input and all necessary files, including letters of recommendation for recommended applicants.

Please access to the above website and check how to submit necessary documents for application (including letters of recommendation if the applicant is recommended by others) as soon as possible. If application is made shortly before the deadline, it will be difficult for recommenders to submit a letter of recommendation. Please be careful.

10. Contact at the Department of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics
Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, JAXA
Director of Department of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics:
Prof. Toru Yamada
Tel: +81-50-3362-2463  E-mail: yamada.toru@jaxa.jp

For inquiries regarding Application Submission in Section 8:
Management and Integration Department
Human Resources Section
Fax: +81-42-759-8440  E-mail: ISAS-JINJI@ml.jaxa.jp

11. Other Remarks
Screening will be conducted by the Advisory Council for Research and Management of ISAS, JAXA.
Each applicant shall bear the cost for transportation and accommodation arising out of the screening process. ISAS/JAXA actively welcomes female applicants.

<Handling of Personal Information>
The personal information provided to ISAS/JAXA will be used and handled solely for the selection purpose. ISAS/JAXA will discard all personal information of unsuccessful applicants after the selection.
For the purposes of affairs related to the selection and human resource management, JAXA needs to collect your personal data requested in the present form.

You may at any time object to the use of your data for this purpose by writing to the following address: ISAS-JINJI @ml.jaxa.jp

You will find below all the detailed information concerning this processing of your personal data and a reminder of your rights, in application of the legislation in force. JAXA, willing to respect the privacy and protection of personal data of its prospects and clients, complies with the legislation in force regarding the protection of personal data as data controller, and in particular Law no. 78-17 of 6 January 1978 (the “Data Protection Act”) and, from 25 May 2018, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (the “GDPR”).

JAXA does not transfer personal data to third countries or parties outside the European Economic Area.
Personnel who transfers from National University Corporation, etc.* (hereinafter referred to as “previous position”) to JAXA Educational Employee will be treated under the following contents. However, personnel who have received his/her retirement allowance (including the equivalent payment) is excluded.

* National University Corporation, Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, National Institute of Technology, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, and National Center for University Entrance Examinations.

1. Period of Employment concerning Year-End Allowance
   Employment period to the previous position will be added up to the tenure as a JAXA Educational Employee.

2. Regional Adjustment Allowance Guarantee
   Regional adjustment allowance is guaranteed based on JAXA’s regulations, considering the work location on the day before the starting day at JAXA, in case of necessity.

3. Payment Requirements for Business Bachelor Allowance
   Allowance may be paid for those who is continuingly a business bachelor from the previous position, only in case of fulfilling the requirements based on JAXA’s regulation.

4. Days of Annual Leave
   Remaining days and time of the annual leave from the previous position will be taken over. Therefore, JAXA will need the acquired results of annual leave at the previous position.