PLATO POST-DOCTORAL POSITION AT LAM

A post-doctoral position is offered at LAM in the context of the preparation of the PLATO space mission, the third M-class mission of ESA, designed to allow the discovery and the characterization of Earth-sized planets and super-Earths in the habitable zone of Sun-like stars.

The position is related to the preparation of the PLATO Input Catalog (PIC) to be used for the selection of PLATO targets and in support to the future light curves analysis.

More specifically, the applicant will be expected to prepare and supply high-precision photometric data catalogs to the PLATO input catalog. This will require to analyze datasets from the previous space missions (e.g. CoRoT, Kepler/K2, TESS as well as CHEOPS that will be launched in fall 2019), with the aim of documenting the properties of stars to be observed: variable, binary, presence of planet(s), activity, rotation, etc… Part of this work could rely on already published sources but it could also require to develop its own classification software, a work that could be done in collaboration with others experts in the PLATO consortium.

The position comes with project constraints: deadlines, documentation writing, meeting attendance (PLATO weeks or meetings related to workpackages progresses). The successful applicant may use up to 20% of their time to conduct independent research programs related to exoplanets.

The successful applicant will work with the PLATO team at LAM within the Planetary System group, mainly with Pr. M. Deleuil, and Dr. A. Santerne. She/he will also collaborate with the PLATO Science Management team, and especially the team in Padova in charge of the PLATO Input Catalog. She/he may also be associated with some of the LAM team's programs on the characterization of planets. LAM researchers are members of the HARPS, SPIRou, SOPHIE, and SPHERE consortia but also of the Science Team of the CHEOPS mission for which they have developed the data reduction pipeline. They also have privileged access to SOPHIE spectrograph data at the Haute-Provence observatory.

The position could start by September 1st, 2019 or December 2019 at the latest, and could be negotiated.

This postdoctoral fellowship, founded by CNES, is for 2 years at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille, with one year possible extension.

The gross salary starts at 2605.99 € per month (about 2118 € net per month) and depends on the experience (years after Ph.D) as set by the salary grid determined by the CNRS administration. It includes the medical insurance.

Travels for meetings and/or conferences as well as computers purchase will be supported.

For further information, interested candidates can contact Magali Deleuil (magali.deleuil@lam.fr) and/or Alexandre Santerne (alexandre.santerne@lam.fr)

The candidates can send (in a singe pdf file) a 2-pages CV, a short (3 pages max) description of existing research expertise and interests developed either during the PhD or previous postdoctoral position(s), a complete list of peer-reviewed publications, and a cover letter (1 page) with the names of

2 referees/references. They will then have to submit their application through an online form, to be opened in June 2019.