



Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)  
NASA Ames Research Center  
Moffett Field, California

## Job Posting

### Deputy Director for SOFIA Science Mission Operations

University of Stuttgart is inviting applications for the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). SOFIA is an 80/20 joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center (DLR), consisting of an extensively modified Boeing 747-SP aircraft carrying a reflecting telescope with a diameter of 2.7 meters. The aircraft is based at NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center in Palmdale, California. The SOFIA Program Office is located at NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, which manages SOFIA's Science Mission Operations (SMO) in cooperation with the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) and the Deutsches SOFIA Institut (DSI) based at the University of Stuttgart.

DSI/University of Stuttgart is seeking an outstanding candidate for the position of the

#### **Deputy Director for SOFIA Science Mission Operations (pay scale TV-L E15)**

This is a full-time position, initially limited to December 31 2020, with the possibility of further extensions. The position is available immediately and will be based at the NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California. The successful candidate will have:

#### • **Responsibilities**

- The Deputy Director and the Director for SMO will be responsible for the overall scientific success of the observatory. The SMO Director and the SOFIA Project Scientist are the primary SOFIA representatives to the astronomical science community.
- The SMO Deputy Director for the SMO in alignment with the SMO Director shall:
  - Coordinate and track observing time allocated to German consortium teams and the German science community.
  - Serve as liaison to the German SOFIA Science Working Group, including representing the SMO Director and representing the interests of the German community in optimal usage of resources.
  - Oversee the scheduling of the telescope for science and engineering so as to meet the scientific goal of the user community as effectively and efficiently as possible.
  - Act as liaison of the German instrument teams regarding their observatory requirements and upgrade plans.
- The SMO Deputy Director for the SMO shall act as the SMO Director's authority when delegated or when the SMO Director is unavailable, for issues including (but not necessarily limited to):
  - Strategic scheduling with the Program Office.
  - Distribution of guest investigator observing time.
  - Allocation of Director's Discretionary Time.
  - Notification to the Program Office and recommendations on how to recover from incomplete or missed observations.
  - Respond to off-nominal observatory conditions (e.g. use contingency flights, swap of flight dates).
- The SMO Deputy Director shall represent the interests of the German project partner at the SMO Directorate level.
- The SMO Deputy Director shall:
  - Assist in organizing German and US time allocation committees and their meetings.
  - Act as the selection official for Call for Proposals.
  - With SMO Director, merge German and US proposal selections to a jointly selected program.

- The Deputy Director for the SMO in alignment with the SMO Director shall provide strategic interface to the NASA Ames SOFIA Program Manager, the NASA Ames SOFIA Project Scientist, and the NASA Armstrong SOFIA Operations Director and its partners on a routine basis to ensure the continued success of current obligations.
  - The Deputy Director for the SMO shall supervise and provide technical and management guidance regarding the outreach to the scientific community and track publications based on German observing time.
  - The SMO Deputy Director shall coordinate dissemination of scientific results and observatory progress between DSI and US outreach groups, including participation in the Public Affairs Working Group.
  - The Deputy Director for the SMO with input from NASA, DLR, USRA and the SOFIA oversight groups, shall develop and keep current both short-range and long-range plans for the observatory, including such issues as maintenance of existing science capabilities, prospects and plans for instrumentation, and upgrading the observatory facilities. Staffing and budgetary projects are to be part of these plans.
  - The SMO Deputy Director will be expected to perform personal research for about a third of his/her time depending on qualifications and project schedules.
- **Job Location and Travel Requirements**
    - The position will be based at the NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, and will include an abroad package such as an expatriation allowance from the University of Stuttgart.
    - Domestic and international travel is required, particularly to the NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center in Palmdale, California.
- **Qualifications and Experience**
    - Minimum of a PhD preferred from an accredited University with emphasis in Astronomy, Physics, or related field and/or minimum of 10 years of experience leading complex, scientific-technical programs.
    - Experience with multi-disciplined projects; including investigative science, engineering, and proposal development.
    - Experience with the operational planning and/or operational execution of observatory support.
    - Working knowledge of project scheduling tools and management.
    - Excellent oral and written communication skills.
    - Excellent customer focus.
    - Experience in collecting, analyzing and presenting proposals to project teams, upper management, and the customer.
    - Excellent inter-personal skills and ability to work in a diverse team environment.
    - Excellent personnel management skills.
    - Professional proficiency in German and English is required.

Salary for this position is in accordance with the pay scale for the public sector in the German federal states TV-L E15 plus an expatriation allowance. Compensation is competitive and based on candidates' experience and expertise.

Applications including a CV, a publication list and a list of current projects are to be submitted to Prof. Dr. Alfred Krabbe, Deutsches SOFIA Institut, Pfaffenwaldring 29, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany, or to [krabbe@dsi.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:krabbe@dsi.uni-stuttgart.de). Deadline for submission of applications is July 31 2017, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For further information about SOFIA please refer to [www.dsi.uni-stuttgart.de](http://www.dsi.uni-stuttgart.de) or [www.sofia.usra.edu](http://www.sofia.usra.edu).



The University of Stuttgart is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and historically underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged. Severely challenged persons will be given preference in case of equal qualifications.