

Rome, 5 Nov 2009

## Vacancy Notice

The Italian National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) is involved in the preparations for the ESA astronomy mission named 'Gaia'. In this framework, following INAF resolution n.27/2009, there is an open position in support of the project management activities at the international level, as described in this vacancy notice.

Gaia is a Cornerstone-class mission of the ESA science program for the next decade. Its goal is to measure positions, motions and parallaxes (distances) of one billion stars with unprecedented precision, as well as their brightness and colour (temperature). In addition, the radial velocities and chemical composition of about 10 percent of these stars are also determined. Gaia will send about 100 Terabytes of raw data to the ground; the working database for the data analysis will reach about 500 to 800 Terabytes at mission end.

Construction of the spacecraft and payload commenced in early 2006, and launch is foreseen for early 2012. The scientific mission will run from 2012 to 2017, while the data reduction is expected to be complete, and the final Gaia catalog released, around 2020.

Preparations for the scientific data reductions started all over Europe in the framework of the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium (DPAC) formed in 2007 and entrusted by ESA with the reduction of the satellite data, after accurate evaluation and approval of the proposal the DPAC submitted in 2006 in response to a specific Agency call.

[More details on the Gaia project can be found on ESA's Gaia homepage

<http://www.rssd.esa.int/gaia/>. ]

The Italian participation in the DPAC, including the position advertised here, is led by INAF and supported by ASI, the Italian Space Agency, via a dedicated budget line. More details on the Italian participation in Gaia can be found on the page [www.oato.inaf.it/astrometry/Gaia\\_Italia](http://www.oato.inaf.it/astrometry/Gaia_Italia).

Technically, the task of the DPAC is a massive software development project. The Chairman and the Executive Committee of the DPAC (the DPACE) are to be supported by the so-called Project Office (PO), to which the day-to-day management of the overall DPAC development and operations is delegated. All PO members will be located at the European Space Astronomy Centre, ESAC, at Villafranca del Castillo, near Madrid, Spain.

Successful candidates for the PO Project Coordinator and Project Scheduler positions were selected late last year and are in place since January; these two positions are sponsored by Germany and Spain, respectively. A successful candidate for the Interface Engineer was also selected last year and the position, funded by France, has recently been filled.

This vacancy notice is for the position of Project Management Officer, the Italian-sponsored DPAC PO position funded by ASI through INAF.

A full description of the open position can be found at

[http://www.oato.inaf.it/astrometry/Gaia\\_Italia/Partecipazione\\_Italiana/Job\\_opportunities/index.html](http://www.oato.inaf.it/astrometry/Gaia_Italia/Partecipazione_Italiana/Job_opportunities/index.html) .

The position is expected to run till about 2020. Salary and social overheads will follow the standard schemes of INAF. In particular, the salary level for this position will be that for a new entry Level II recruit (similar to an associate scientist), with a yearly base gross salary of 41,933.78€, plus all the applicable allowances for INAF hires stationed abroad (minimum of 4,800.00€ depending on family situation). Relocation costs will also be considered.

INAF aims at an increased percentage of women within its staff, therefore we particularly invite applications by women. Handicapped applicants will be employed preferentially, given equivalent expertise and experience.

Electronic applications (as one pdf file) including cover letter, curriculum vitae, education certificates and a description of the professional experience and prior employments should be submitted before December 15, 2009 to:

Dr. Mario G. Lattanzi at his email address [lattanzi@oato.inaf.it](mailto:lattanzi@oato.inaf.it).