

**POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS IN ASTROPHYSICS**  
**Foundation for Research & Technology – Hellas (FORTH)**  
**and University of Crete**  
**Greece**

The Astrophysics Group at FORTH and the Physics Department at the University of Crete (Greece) has been recently awarded a four-year Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge grant from the European Union. The scope of the grant is to improve upon the existing research capabilities of the group, which will act as host for a number of senior researchers and we expect to hire three postdoctoral fellows over the next two years.

Currently there is an opening for one postdoctoral position in the area of temporal studies of compact sources in the X-ray, gamma-ray, optical domain. The successful candidate is expected to make use of the local facilities and in particular the data obtained with OPTIMA, a versatile high-speed (2 microsec) photo-polarimeter intended for time resolved observations of compact objects, at Skinakas Observatory. Details on OPTIMA can be found at <http://www.mpe.mpg.de/OPTIMA/>. The duration of the position is for a period of 2 years. The starting date is negotiable and could be as early as September 2006.

Interested applicants are requested to send a cover letter with a CV, publication record, and description of research interests along with the names of three individuals who could write letters of recommendation to Prof. Nick Kylafis, Dept. of Physics, Univ. of Crete, P.O. Box 2208, GR-71003 Heraklion, Greece. Applications by e-mail to "kylafis@physics.uoc.gr" are strongly encouraged. The application deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup> 2006.

The Astrophysics Group in Crete is very active and currently consists of 8 tenured members, 2 postdocs, 1 support astronomer, 2 engineers and several graduate students. Their research interests cover a variety of topics in Galactic and extragalactic astrophysics. The members of the group are: V. Charmandaris (observer: infrared studies of galaxies), D. Hatzidimitriou (observer: star clusters, SMC, LMC, dwarf galaxies), Z. Ioannou (observer: AGN, X-ray binaries), N. Kylafis (theorist: modeling of X-ray sources and galaxies), F. Mavromatakis (observer: spectral studies of SNRs), A. Misiriotis (theorist: modeling of dynamics and dust emission in galaxies), I. Papadakis (observer: AGN, X-ray binaries) J. Papamastorakis, (observer: galaxies, SNRs, planetary nebulae), P. Reig (observer: compact binaries), J. Ventura (theorist: compact objects).

The Astrophysics Group manages the 1.3 m telescope at Skinakas Observatory, located at an altitude of 1750 m at a distance of only 60 km from the city of Heraklion. The Skinakas Observatory has been built and operates as part of a scientific research collaboration between the University of Crete, FORTH, and the Max-Planck-Institut für Extraterrestrische Physik of Germany. The instrumentation of the telescope includes a focal reducer enabling wide field optical imaging, several optical cameras with a suite of wide and narrow-band filters, a low-resolution spectrometer, a recently acquired 7x7arcmin near-IR camera, the OPTIMA high-speed photo-polarimeter (for a period of 3 months per year), as well as an Echelle spectrograph (to be installed in early 2007).

More information on the activities of the Astrophysics Group and Skinakas Observatory can be obtained from: <http://www.physics.uoc.gr/en/menu/astro.php>