

Postdoctoral Position in Asteroid Science

The Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS) in Göttingen, Germany, invites applications for a postdoctoral position to study the binary active asteroid 288P (300163). The position will be **for a period of at least 6 months, and up to 3.5 years**, depending on the outcome of a funding proposal that has been submitted and is expected to be evaluated by the end of March. **The starting date should ideally be on 1 July 2018 or earlier.**

The applicant is expected to carry out research on the formation and evolution of the 288P system, focussing on the following topics:

1. Possible formation of the binary system by rotational splitting and subsequent tidal processes.
2. Possible collisional formation of the system.
3. Longevity of sublimation activity and influence of the activity on the binary orbit.
4. Observational biases and estimated abundance of similar binary systems.

The goal of the work will be to reconstruct the sequence of events and processes that led to the formation of the 288P system.

Applicants should hold a PhD in a relevant field. A background in at least one of the fields of (a) asteroid/comet dynamics, (b) asteroid/comet thermal processes, or (c) collision processes will be advantageous. Applications should include a description of research interests, curriculum vitae, publication list, proposed starting date and the contact information of two potential referees. Applications should be sent by email as a single pdf file to Jessica Agarwal (agarwal@mps.mpg.de). **Review of applications will begin on 01 March 2018** and continue until the position is filled. Remuneration is according to the German public salary scale TVöD group E13. Social security benefits are in accordance with the public service regulations.

The Max Planck Society strives to increase the proportion of women in areas where they are underrepresented. Women are therefore explicitly encouraged to apply. Applications from disabled persons are encouraged and will be favored in the case of equally qualified applicants.