

Postdoctoral position in commercial development of electrospray ion thrusters

Aeronautics Group, University of Southampton, UK

Duration of post: 18 months, with possible extension for 6 months

Start of post: March 2021, but can be flexible.

Pay: £31,866 per annum

Applications are invited for a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant (Research Fellow) position, for a duration of 18 months. The position is within the Aeronautics Group, within the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

The post will work on the development of electrospray ion thrusters for CubeSat propulsion, pushing the commercial development of the technology. The project, in collaboration with two small company's, AVS UK and RHP Technology Austria, and with funding from Innovate UK, will work to develop an electrospray thruster based upon the previous work completed at Southampton on this novel CubeSat propulsion technology. Work at Southampton will focus on the design and testing of the electrospray thruster, with the manufacturing of the thruster components completed at the commercial collaborators.

It is desirable that the person has experience in designing and testing ion thruster technology, preferably electrospray thrusters, a closely related technology such as ion beam experience, or a demonstrated aptitude for learning new fields of research. The person should have a PhD in aerospace engineering, preferably within the field space propulsion, or experimental beam physics. It is desirable that the person has experience of operating large vacuum chamber facilities. Additionally, a strong track record of high-quality journal publications is an advantage.

For further information please see the advert:

<https://jobs.soton.ac.uk/Vacancy.aspx?id=24608&forced=2>

For enquiries, please contact Dr Charlie Ryan, Assistant Professor in Aeronautics, University of Southampton, UK. c.n.ryan@soton.ac.uk.