Principal Research Scientist – Radio astronomer

Haystack Observatory is a laboratory within MIT whose mission is to carry out cutting edge research in the field of radio sciences, enabled through development and deployment of innovative new instrumentation and methods. Current projects at the observatory include ultra-high resolution imaging of super massive black holes, geodetic VLBI, space weather and ionospheric studies, VLBI observations for studies of the solid Earth, low frequency imaging of the Sun, and detection of remnant radio signals from the early Universe. Common technical elements across projects at the Observatory allow shared resource allocation with a priority placed on maximizing efficiencies. Many current projects have strong collaborative or international components that require cooperative efforts with other institutes.

Job Description: MIT Haystack Observatory is seeking a Principal Research Scientist to assume a leadership role in an established program in Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) astronomy science and technology. Consideration will be given to individuals who offer an established reputation in radio astronomy, a strong grounding in physics, and a track record of academic leadership. The successful candidate will be expected to maintain a significant reputation in the field of radio astronomy. He or she will be expected to contribute significantly to the overall leadership of the radio astronomy program at MIT Haystack Observatory, a recognized world leader in VLBI, and formulate strategic directions, which may include new methods and technologies that utilize MIT Haystack’s expertise in radio science. In addition to contributions to astrophysical and astronomical sciences, this position may involve leadership of multi-institutional VLBI networks.

Qualifications/Requirements: Ph.D. in physics, earth sciences, astronomy, or related field and 5 years experience is required. In addition to observational radio astronomy, expertise in radio astronomy techniques, computational methods, and engineering of complex scientific instrumentation systems is highly desired. Appointment to this position requires an established academic track record in astrophysical science or a closely related field, as well as a demonstrated ability to lead a research and development team and maintain and build sponsor relationships. Also required are strong leadership and management skills, excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills, experience presenting research at academic and industry conferences, identifying funding sources, and writing successful proposals. Applications must include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, 2-3 page statement of research and goals, and names and contact information of at least four individuals who will provide letters of recommendation.