

Opportunity Title: Astrophysics: Advanced Techniques for X-Ray Spectroscopy

Opportunity Reference Code: 0003-NPP-NOV23-GSFC-Astrophys

Organization National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Reference Code 0003-NPP-NOV23-GSFC-Astrophys

Application Deadline 11/1/2023 6:00:59 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description We have pioneered the development of cryogenic microcalorimeters for high resolution, non-dispersive x-ray spectroscopy. An array in the current generation of microcalorimeters typically has 36 pixels with better than 6-eV resolution and we are now working in several directions to fabricate arrays with many more pixels (100-1000) and with higher spectral resolution (2 eV). Some of the specific technologies we are pursuing use doped silicon, superconducting transition edge sensors, and magnetic calorimeters. We are also expanding the capability of these devices by optimizing pixel design for specific energy ranges (i.e., soft and hard x-rays). We have several cryogenic facilities that can reach 50 mK for this work and access to state-of-the-art processing facilities for device fabrication. This technology is being developed principally for space applications, but we are also using this to support a vigorous program in laboratory astrophysics using an electron beam ion trap to simulate astrophysical plasmas. This work provides some of the atomic physics data needed for modelling celestial spectra and also valuable operational and calibration experience with these very sensitive spectrometers.

Location:

Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland

Field of Science: Astrophysics

Advisors:

Caroline A. Kilbourne
Caroline.A.Kilbourne@nasa.gov
301-286-2469

Frederick Scott Porter
Frederick.S.Porter@nasa.gov
301-286-5016

Richard L. Kelley
Richard.L.Kelley@nasa.gov
301-286-7266

Maurice Andrew Leutenegger
maurice.a.leutenegger@nasa.gov
301-286-6410

Simon Bandler
simon.r.bandler@nasa.gov



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301-286-1363

Stephen James Smith
stephen.j.smith@nasa.gov
(301) 286-3719

Applications with citizens from Designated Countries will not be accepted at this time, unless they are Legal Permanent Residents of the United States. A complete list of Designated Countries can be found at: <https://www.nasa.gov/oijr/export-control>.

Eligibility is currently open to:

- U.S. Citizens;
- U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR);
- Foreign Nationals eligible for an Exchange Visitor J-1 visa status; and,
- Applicants for LPR, asylees, or refugees in the U.S. at the time of application with 1) a valid EAD card and 2) I-485 or I-589 forms in pending status

Eligibility Requirements • **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.