



Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M, www.uc3m.es)
invites applications to fill the Researcher position NEPTUNE-E1

Position description and objectives:

This is a 1–1.5 year full-time researcher contract to experimentally characterize a magnetic arch for plasma acceleration for space propulsion applications. The selected candidate will adapt the existing setup, consisting of two ECR plasma sources, and investigate the effect of the distance and angle between the source on the external plasma expansion with advanced plasma diagnostic systems.

The selected candidate will work within the state of the art facilities of the Plasma and Space Propulsion Team (EP2, ep2.uc3m.es) at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid under the supervision of professors M. Merino and J. Navarro, and collaborate closely with other researchers. The contract will be funded under the **ERC Proof of Concept project NEPTUNE**, linked to the **ERC Starting Grant project ZARATHUSTRA**.

Requirements:

- Young MSc / PhD holder in Aerospace Engineering, Plasma Physics, or other relevant fields.
- Previous engineering design/plasma laboratory experience is highly desirable.
- Critical & creative thinking; team-working and communications skills.
- Ability to deal independently and proactively with scientific and engineering challenges.
- Good proficiency in English (oral & written).
- Availability to travel abroad (e.g. to present results in conferences)

What we offer:

- Flexible working environment and schedule.
- Become part of a young, dynamic, highly qualified, collaborative team.
- Opportunity to publish your work and travel to international conferences.
- Depending on performance, possibility of extension of this contract beyond this project (e.g. moving into a PhD contract)
- Competitive compensation according to educational level and experience, plus productivity bonuses.

How to apply:

Interested candidates must send their applications to odriva@pa.uc3m.es indicating in the email subject the reference “**NEPTUNE-E1**,” and attaching the following documents in pdf format:

- A motivation letter highlighting candidate’s skills, experience and research goals (max. 1 page).
- CV, including relevant education and work experience
- The contact information of up to two references (may be contacted during the hiring process)
- Sample of previous scientific/technical works of the candidate, if any.

Application deadline is **January 31, 2024, but the position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is found**. Contract will begin in February-March 2025, though an earlier/later start date can be arranged. Applications from women and minorities are particularly encouraged.