I would like to ask you to circulate the following opportunities

1. Access to Planetary Science Facilities

The Europlanet Research Infrastructure provides access for European researchers to state-of-the art facilities to conduct high quality research. Facilities include: Selected field sites that provide realistic analogues of Mars, Europa and Titan; Laboratory-based facilities able to recreate the conditions found in the atmospheres and on the surfaces of planetary systems, with special attention on Mars, Europa and Titan; Planetary Sample Analysis Facilities in leading analytical laboratories that can analyze meteoric and returned samples with un-parallel precision.

Access to these facilities is now open and in 2010 we particularly seek users for the planetary analogue/astrobiology field sites in Ny-Ålesund Svalbard and Kamchatka. http://www.europlanet-ri.eu/facilities

2. COST Astrochemistry CM0805

This Cost Action has been established to study chemical processes relevant to the physical conditions encountered in the interstellar medium, and on the surface and in the atmospheres of planetary bodies. The Action aims to provide new insights into the dynamics of the chemical reactions leading to molecular synthesis under such conditions and reveal how these are influenced by the ambient temperature and pressure. Special attention will also be given to the study of the novel surface chemistry prevalent on interstellar medium dust grains and planetary surfaces. The Action also aims to combine such laboratory data with complementary chemical models to allow a fuller interpretation of observational data.

The action hosts workshops and supports short visits between EU research teams

see http://w3.cost.esf.org/index.php? id=189&action_number=CM0805

for further details contact n.j.mason@open.ac.uk<mailto: n.j.mason@open.ac.uk

3. LASSIE EU Training Network Phd and Postdoc Positions

The European Commission has recently approved under the Framework 7 Programme the ITN-People network LASSIE; a large interdisciplinary training network in the field of SOLID STATE ASTROCHEMISTRY established with the goal of addressing issues of relevance to the chemical evolution of the Universe. From
01/02/2010 and over the next 4 years, a consortium of 13 experimental and theoretical groups

with 5 industrial and
1 outreach partners, led by Professor Martin McCoustra (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK), will supply training and research opportunities for up to 28 Early Stage Researchers (ESR, PhD students) and 4 Experienced Researchers (ER, Post-doctoral research assistants) at the following host sites:

Prof. M. R. S. McCoustra Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK

Dr. L. Hornekaer Aarhus University, Denmark

Prof. J. L. Lemaire Paris Observatory, France

Prof. H. Zacharias University of Münster, Germany

Dr. C. Jäger Max Plank Gesellschaft, Germany

Dr. M. E. Palumbo National Institute for Astrophysics, Catania, Italy

Prof. H. Linnartz Leiden University, Netherlands

Prof. D. Chakarov Chalmers University, Gothenburg, Sweden

Prof. G. Nyman University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Prof. S. D. Price University College London, UK

Prof. N. J. Mason The Open University, UK

Dr. T. A. Field Queen's University, Belfast, UK

Dr. H. J. Fraser Strathclyde University, Glasgow, UK

To qualify as an Early Stage Researcher (ESR), candidates must have obtained a Masters Degree or equivalent in Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy or a related Engineering field within the past four years and demonstrate experience in experimental physics, chemical physics, physical chemistry, surface science, computational chemistry and astronomy, or theoretical astrochemistry and astrophysics. Applicants considering themselves as Experienced Researchers (ER) must already possess a Doctoral Degree or have at least 4 years of research experience (full time equivalent) since obtaining their Masters Degree. They must also have relevant expertise in one or more of the indicated areas.

The consortium is immediately hiring the first tranche of researchers with 14 ESR and 3 ER positions available NOW. Applications may be considered up to a final deadline of 30th November 2010 for appointment in 2011 of a further 14 ESR and 1 ER positions. All nationalities are eligible to apply but candidates have to fulfil the EU mobility criteria and will be required to work at a site outside their home country.

A more detailed description of the positions available at each host is available by email application to lassie@hw.ac.uk<mailto: lassie@hw.ac.uk. Potential candidates are requested to obtain this document before sending a detailed application letter, curriculum vitae and contact details of two referees to the relevant local principal investigator.

Professor Nigel J Mason, OBE Department of Physics and Astronomy The Open University Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6AA United Kingdom

Telephone; (+44) (0)1908655253 Fax: (+44) (0)1908654192 Email; n.j.mason@open.ac.uk

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