The Department of Materials Science and Engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia seeks a Research Associate to conduct research simulations of the neutral and plasma sources in Saturn's magnetosphere including the loss of Titan's atmosphere. The candidate will work with Professor Robert E. Johnson in using data from the CAPS plasma instrument on the Cassini spacecraft to develop models for the plasma sources and sinks. The incumbent will develop simulations to help analyze and interpret the CAPS Cassini data at Titan, encode new DSMC simulations for describing the loss of atmosphere from Titan as well as publish results in Icarus or an equivalent journal and present results at both the CAPS and DPS meetings.

Candidates must have a recent PhD in Physics, Applied Physics, Astronomy, or in a related field and experience in Monte Carlo modeling of neutrals and plasma and in analyzing spacecraft data. Strong technical aptitude and knowledge of analysis and fitting procedures for spacecraft plasma data, mathematical and programming skills for producing simulations of the neutral and plasma sources in Saturn's magnetosphere and the ability to work on multiple projects at once and to participate in proposal writing are also required. Preference will be given to those with proven oral and written communications.

To apply, visit https://jobs.virginia.edu and search job posting number 0617881. Complete an online candidate profile and attach a cover letter, a detailed curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references. The deadline for applying is January 1, 2016.

For additional information about the position and the application process, please contact Jeannie Reese at jsv7u@virginia.edu.

The University of Virginia is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer committed to developing diversity in faculty and welcomes applications from women, minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities.