

RNDr. Michael Prouza, Ph.D.

*(*1978 in Prague, married, four daughters)*

Director

**FZU – Institute of Physics
of the Czech Academy of Sciences**



Michael Prouza serves as the FZU Director since 2017, since 2012 until 2017 he was the Science Secretary of the institute, since 2014 he is also a senior researcher in the Department of Astroparticle Physics. He is employed at FZU since 2000.

Michael Prouza studied astronomy and astrophysics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University in Prague, and successfully defended his diploma thesis in 2001. He obtained the Ph.D. title from the same faculty in 2006. His Ph.D. thesis was dedicated to detection methods and energetic calibration of cosmic rays with highest energies. In 2006 and 2007 he worked as the postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University in New York in USA.

Michael Prouza is an active member of worldwide collaborations in research fields of astroparticle physics and astronomy. Namely, he is involved in the current largest observatory for the detection of extremely energetic cosmic rays – the Pierre Auger Observatory, where he works on the energetic calibration of cosmic ray showers and he is responsible for the operation of robotic telescope FRAM. He also participates in the construction of the very high-energy gamma ray observatory – the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA), where he was involved in site selection, and currently works on the atmospheric monitoring and telescope calibration. Since 2011 until 2014 he was a member of the CTA Speakers and Publication Office, since 2015 he is the representative of the Czech Republic in the Administrative and Finance Committee of the CTA Observatory and leader of the working group for data selection and calibration within Central Calibration Facility (CCF) of CTA Observatory. Michael Prouza is the Czech representative in the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) Corporation. LSST, now called Vera Rubin Observatory will be the largest ground-based survey telescope, and Michael Prouza is involved in the CCD characterization and in methods and simulations for determination of dark matter and dark energy parameters. In 2020, Michael Prouza started to work as the Co-Principal Investigator on the ESA PRODEX project dedicated to the development of the fiber switch unit actuator for the LISA satellite, which will detect gravitational waves in space.

Michael Prouza has co-authored more than 160 publications in international refereed journals and conference proceedings. These publications were cited more than 10 000 times. His current Hirsch index according to WoS is 48.

Michael Prouza lectures astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology at the Faculty of Science of the Palacký University. He is advisor of doctoral, master and bachelor students from Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University, from the Faculty of Science of the Palacký University and from the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering of the Czech Technical University.

Michael Prouza holds also further position associated with the research organization on the national level. Since 2012 he is the member of Council of the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, since 2015 he is the member of the Council for Space Activities of the Czech Academy of Sciences, since 2015 he is the member of the Council for Scientific Activities of Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Education, and since 2014 he is the member of the Academy Assembly of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Since 2017 he is the member of the Scientific Council of the Czech Technical University.

Michael Prouza is also very involved in popularization of science, he frequently lectures at high schools, public observatories, he co-operates with public radio and television. He led several students in project Open Science and he is the chair of the Společnost Astropis, which issues the national magazine for popularization of astronomy.