Stefaan Poedts is a university professor at UMCS and also at KU Leuven (Belgium). He obtained his PhD magna cum laude in Applied Mathematics (solar physics) at KU Leuven in 1988 and was postdoc at KU Leuven (1 year), the Max-Planck-Institute for Plasma Physics (Garching, Germany, 2 years) and the FOM Institute for Plasma Physics (Nieuwegein, the Netherlands, 4 years) before he became Senior Researcher at the FOM Institute for Plasma Physics in 1995. In October 2016, however, he took up a position of Research leader of the Belgian National Science Foundation at the KU Leuven and in 2000 this position was turned into a professorship at KU Leuven, where he became full professor in 2003. Prof. Poedts also was appointed university professor at UMCS in Lublin in October 2019.

Prof. Poedts co-authored more than 400 articles in peer reviewed international journals. He is currently involved in 5 EU Horizon 2020 projects (2 as coordinator), 4 ESA projects (2 as coordinator), and several other projects on National and university level.