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Rutgers University, Camden, NJ 08102. *Positively curved π_2 -finite manifolds*. Preliminary report.

Let M be a smooth manifold with finite second homotopy group, positive sectional curvature, dimension greater than 8, and assume that a compact connected Lie group G acts smoothly on M . We prove the vanishing of the characteristic number $\hat{A}(M, TM)$ if G contains two commuting involutions. (Received February 06, 2006)