

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

The European Space Agency is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women

POST Head of the Ground Segment and Mission Operations Department in the [Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes](#).

This post is classified A6 of the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

LOCATION ESRIN, Frascati, (Italy).

DUTIES The postholder will report to the Director of Earth Observation Programmes (D-EOP) and is responsible for the management, design, coordination and operation of the ESA Earth Observation (EO) payload data ground segment infrastructure and non-ESA missions, and for the Phase E management of the Earth Observation missions. This includes:

- preparation and implementation, and the project and mission management of EO Programmes in the exploitation phase and on the long-term to equally meet stakeholder's requirements from data users, member states and the EU;
- design, implementation and management of the distributed, shared generic Multi-Mission elements and with mission specific Payload Data Segment elements;
- cooperation with member states, industry and internationally in the elaboration of new strategies, technologies, architecture and collaboration schemes for payload data ground segment and EO data management approaches;
- preparation and implementation of the Copernicus space component operations concept of Sentinels and contributing missions jointly with the EU;
- arrangements with other EO satellite operators for access to Third Party and Copernicus contributing mission data;
- formulation of the ESA EO data policy;
- implementation of special projects and related Technological Research and Development for ground segment infrastructure;
- management responsibility for the following programmes/programme lines: Earth Observation Envelope Programme (EOEP) – Mission Operations, EOEP – Ground Segment Development and elements of Level 2 Products line, delegated EOEP Earth Explorer payload ground segment development budgets, Earthnet; Long Term Data Preservation, delegated ground segment research budgets; Copernicus Space Component ground segment development and GSC operations and data access programme lines.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a university degree or equivalent qualification in engineering, or space applications together with 10-15 years' experience in the management, engineering and operations of space programmes.

Candidates should have:

- excellent knowledge of the ESA Programme Management Processes and the collaboration with member states, industry, data users and the EU;
- solid technical and programmatic understanding of space or ground segment development or operations in the national, international and industrial context, ideally in Earth Observation;
- substantial experience with project and resource management;
- soft skills to manage a large team of ESA staff, industry and partners in a fast paced and complex environment;
- strong ambassadorship skills in representing ESA; making a strong and positive personal impact.

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these languages is required together with a working knowledge of the other language. Knowledge of another member state language is an asset.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **09 September 2013**.

Applications from external candidates for this post should preferably be made [on-line](#) at the ESA Web Site (www.esa.int/careers). Those unable to apply on-line should submit their CV to the Head of the Human Resources Department, ESA, 8-10 rue Mario-Nikis, 75738 Paris, Cedex 15 (France).

ESA staff members wishing to apply for this post should fill in the [Internal Application Form](#) and email it to [Apply2HQ](#).

Please note that applicants may be required to undergo aptitude testing, including recognised psychometric testing as well as problem solving and decision-making exercises.

Under ESA Regulations, the age limit of recruitment is 55. However, given the special requirements of the post applications by persons above that age may be considered provided they demonstrate exceptional professional experience in the fields covered by the vacancy notice. Please note that applications are only considered from nationals of one of the following States: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Canada.

In accordance with the European Space Agency's security procedures and as part of the selection process, successful candidates will be required to undergo basic screening before appointment.