

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Technical and Quality Management

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

POST

Robotics System and Software Engineer in the Automation and Robotics Section, Mechatronics and Optics Division, Mechanical Engineering Department, [Directorate of Technical and Quality Management](#).

This post is classified in the A2/A4 grade band of the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

LOCATION

ESTEC, Noordwijk (The Netherlands).

DUTIES

The holder of this post will report to the Head of the Automation and Robotics Section and shall work in the ESA Telerobotics and Haptics Laboratory within the following domains:

- generic systems and technology development of robotic, telerobotic and mechatronic components;
- robotic and mechatronic software systems, such as high-level and low-level software for control, coordination and implementation of robotic, telerobotic and mechatronic systems interacting for manipulative, relocative and locomotive tasks.

Specifically, the holder of the post will be responsible for:

- defining, analysing, specifying, implementing, testing and verifying the above systems for research and development (R&D) in the space sector, for ESA core activities, ESA projects and generic laboratory applications;
- initiating, implementing and managing future R&D activities associated with the above fields, targeted towards facilitating and enabling future space projects by employing state-of-the-art knowledge of robotics and advanced software systems. This also involves participating to space and non-space expert groups and communities both inside and outside ESA;
- providing expert robotics support to on-going and future ESA projects, by supporting the system engineering process in all phases (i.e. creation of requirements, system and test specifications), by performing engineering investigations, critical trade-off's and optimizations of critical components through theoretical and/or practical analysis and testing, and by reviewing project documentation;
- seeking and maintaining strategic partnerships with relevant players in space robotics to optimally leverage and coordinate developments in the above field and to actively promote collaboration at international level.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have a higher university degree (preferably at PhD level) or equivalent qualification in a domain relevant to robotics and mechatronics. An active academic record of R&D in the field, preferably with emphasis on telerobotics, haptics and robotic control infrastructures, would be an asset. In particular, candidates should have experience in the design and development of robotic components and/or systems, as well as experience in defining and managing R&D activities involving small groups of people.

Applicants should have good interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to work effectively and cooperatively in a diverse and international team environment and to define and implement solutions in line with team and individual objectives and project deadlines. In addition, they should have good analytical, organizational and reporting skills, a proactive attitude to solving problems and an interest in innovative technologies.

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

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **29 August 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 Division, ESTEC, Keplerlaan 1, 2201 AZ Noordwijk ZH (The Netherlands).

ESA staff members wishing to apply for this post should fill in the [Internal Application Form](#) and email it to [Apply2ESTEC](#).

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

Under ESA Regulations, the age limit for recruitment is 55. 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.

Priority will be first given to internal candidates and secondly to external candidates from under-represented member states.

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.