

**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**

Electric Propulsion Engineer in the Electric Propulsion Section, Propulsion and Aerothermodynamics 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 postholder will report to the Head of the Electric Propulsion Section and is responsible for tasks related to technology research and development (R&D) and project support in the field of electric propulsion. The incumbent will be expected to undertake the performance of technical support activities for projects and the monitoring of ESA R&D contracts, with a particular emphasis on innovative technologies, currently envisaged for application on current and planned ESA missions, e.g. micro-propulsion for drag-free and flight formation and high thrust engines for interplanetary missions.

In addition, the postholder will be in charge of coordinating functions and activities related to the maintenance and operations of the ESA Propulsion Laboratory, under the responsibility of the Electric Propulsion Section.

The specific duties of the post include:

- providing expert technical support and consultancy in electric propulsion to the Agency's project teams responsible for the development of spacecraft, throughout all the project phases;
- contributing to the preparation of work plans in electric propulsion in the Agency's technological programmes;
- preparing and technically managing Agency contracts for studies, experimental investigations and engineering developments in electric propulsion;
- taking charge of key tasks for the maintenance and operations of the ESA Propulsion Laboratory, including quality and infrastructure management responsibilities.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in aerospace, mechanical or electrical engineering, or physics with specialisation in spacecraft propulsion.

Candidates must have some years of experience in the supervision of development and AIV of electric propulsion systems, thrusters and components for spacecraft applications. Practical experience is also required in the operation and use of propulsion test facilities for low thrust applications (e.g. electric propulsion, cold gas).

A comprehensive system background, including an appreciation of the state-of-the art in innovative space propulsion will be considered an advantage for the position.

Applicants should have good interpersonal and communication skills. They should have the ability to work autonomously, 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, organisational 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 languages is required. Knowledge of another member state language is an asset.

## CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **02 May 2014**.

Applications from external candidates for this post should preferably be made [on-line](#) at the ESA Web Site ([www.esa.int/careers](http://www.esa.int/careers)). Those unable to apply on-line should submit their CV to the Human Resources, 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.**