

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 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 (Netherlands).

DUTIES

Within the structure of the Mechatronics and Optics Division, the postholder will report to the Head of the Automation and Robotics Section.

The main tasks associated with this post are to provide support to ESA projects in space science and exploration, space applications, human spaceflight and microgravity. In addition, the incumbent will be expected to guide and participate in the development of space automation and robotics (A&R) technology and to initiate and monitor industrial research and development (R&D) activities.

Specific duties will include:

- supporting ESA projects in the evaluation of contractors' plans, technical specifications and efforts proposed for the execution of space robotics missions;
- supporting ESA projects in the assessment and acceptance of contractors' deliverables and developments;
- supporting ESA projects in the conduct of ESA project reviews;
- supporting ESA projects in the planning, preparation of operations in robotic missions, and training in the use of tools supporting these operations;
- supporting robotics projects in the Directorate of Human Spaceflight and Operations, particularly those related to the International Space Station (ISS) such as the European Robotic Arm (ERA);
- designing, defining and analysing A&R systems, especially in relation to their operation in space;
- supporting space science and exploration investigators in defining, developing and using mission operation A&R systems on planetary surfaces or aboard manned or unmanned space laboratories;

- supporting studies in the area of robotics and operations related to human exploration;
- liaising closely with technological and scientific users of space A&R.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in a discipline relevant to space robotics. Preference will be given to candidates with a wide spectrum of engineering experience in space automation and robotic systems, as well as several years of experience in software engineering and space A&R systems operations.

Knowledge and/or experience of space robotics related to the ISS and its operations will be considered an asset, as will knowledge and/or experience of the ERA system.

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, candidates 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 **19 May 2014**.

Applications from external candidates for this post should preferably be made [online](#) from the ESA website (www.esa.int/careers). Those unable to apply online should submit their CV to 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 first be 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.