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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

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POST

Optical Instrument Engineer in the Optical Instruments Section, Instrument Pre-Development Division, Earth Observation Projects Department, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes.

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

LOCATION

ESTEC, Noordwijk (Netherlands).

DUTIES

The postholder will report to the Head of the Optical Instruments Section and will be responsible for the definition, engineering, technology breadboarding and pre-development of optical instruments for future Earth Observation Explorer and operational space missions, the latter including Eumetsat and Copernicus missions.

The types of instrument developed in the Section include radiometers, multispectral imagers at various resolutions, spectrometers for ocean, land and atmosphere sensing and active laser instruments for surface and atmospheric sensing. The incumbent will be engaged in the study and pre-development of one or several of these instrument types with a focus on passive optical instruments.

The duties will include:

- identification and investigation of new observation principles, techniques and technologies;
- establishment of requirements, definition and assessment of the performance of new optical Earth observation instruments taking into account mission, system and programmatic requirements;
- provision of expert support for the study of optical payload aspects of new satellites and missions;
- definition, initiation and management of industrial contracts encompassing instrument concept and supporting studies and technical risk retirement of future spaceborne instruments through technology developments, component and subsystem breadboarding and the realisation of instrument demonstrators;

- contribution to the preparation of technical and scientific dossiers on new Earth Explorer and operational missions;

- maintenance of knowledge on relevant technology status and instrument development programmes inside and outside ESA.

In the execution of the tasks, the postholder will work in close coordination with staff from Earth Observation project teams, from the Science, Applications and Future Technologies Department and from the Technical and Quality Management Directorate.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in engineering or physics and have a minimum of 5 years relevant experience in remote-sensing optical instruments and associated development. Familiarity with optical remote sensing techniques and experience in hardware development and performance analysis models and tools are desirable.

Candidates are expected to be able to contribute to a dynamic and creative environment in preparatory phases of satellite missions. Applicants should have good interpersonal skills and be able to work effectively within small teams as well as working autonomously. Experience in working in a project and/or team environment is desirable.

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 would be an asset.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **1 April 2015**.

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 CVs 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.