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	Software Product Assurance Engineer in the Software Product Assurance Section, Quality Dependability and PA Support Division, Product Assurance and Safety Department, Directorate of Technical and Quality Management.
	This post is classified in the A2–A4 grade band on the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.
LOCATION	ESTEC, Noordwijk (Netherlands), with initial resident assignment in Toulouse (France).
DUTIES	The Software Product Assurance Engineer will initially be assigned as integrated support to the EGNOS Project, reporting to the Head of the EGNOS PA & Safety Unit for project-specific responsibilities. For maintaining professional standards, contributions to corporate tasks (reviews, standardisation, alerts, lessons learned, etc.) and implementing ESA's general PA policy, the postholder will report to the Head of Department. Training and familiarisation with the Department's mandate, processes and procedures will therefore be provided at the start of the integrated support assignment.

Specific responsibilities and tasks will include:

- supporting the Project in establishing and monitoring EGNOS-specific software PA requirements, in relation to ESA standards, EGNOS specifications and applicable European Commission, Document and European Aviation Safety Agency regulations/standards;
- evaluating contractors' plans, technical specifications and efforts proposed to execute development and qualification of software developed or used under the EGNOS programme;
- monitoring the performance of the contractors' Software Product Assurance programmes to ensure compliance with SPA requirements established for projects;
- evaluating proposed concepts, designs and operations for compliance with defined SPA requirements;
- performing audits of contractors and their in-house standards for compliance with ESA requirements and assessing maturity of their software processes;
- liaising with software engineering on related matters;
- coordinating with dependability/safety engineers to assess implementation of corresponding recommendations within the software;
- participating in the non-conformance management process for software;
- supporting the Head of Unit in following up subsystem reviews, particularly for the qualification status of software;
- supporting the Safety Engineer in controlling implementation of the software safety assurance system;
- participating in project reviews to assess compliance with applicable requirements and formulate accept/reject recommendations;
- participating in periodic meetings with the parent section, contributing to the transfer of technical knowledge and lessons learned across the Agency.

These tasks require interaction with the EGNOS prime contractor and developing subcontractors, the European GNSS Agency (GSA) and the EGNOS Service Provider.

Duties will also include supporting the system engineers within the postholder's area of expertise.

QUALIFICATIONS Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in software engineering, with substantial experience in software product assurance in the aerospace or comparable fields, preferably on software-intensive safety-critical systems. Knowledge and experience of ECSS software engineering, software PA and civil aviation standards (DO-178B/C, DO-278) are also required. Familiarity with GNSS and EGNOS would be a clear advantage, as would experience with software certification processes.

Candidates should have good interpersonal and communication skills, being able to work effectively, autonomously and cooperatively in a diverse and international team environment, defining and implementing solutions in line with team and individual objectives and project deadlines.

They should have good analytical, organisational and reporting skills, a proactive attitude to problem-solving and an interest in innovative technologies.

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. The location of the initial assignment being the ESA Office in Toulouse, a good knowledge of both these languages is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

CLOSING DATE The closing date for applications is **9 September 2015**.

Applications from external candidates 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 should fill in the Internal Application Form and email it to Apply2ESTEC.

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

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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 ESA's security procedures and as part of the selection process, successful candidates will be required to undergo basic screening before appointment.