

## **EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

### **Vacancy in the Directorate of Science and Robotic Exploration**

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

#### **POST**

Operations Team Leader in the Mission Operations Division, Operations Department, [Directorate of Science and Robotic Exploration](#), with initial assignment to Gaia.

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

#### **LOCATION**

ESAC, Villanueva de la Cañada, Madrid (Spain).

#### **DUTIES**

During its 5-year lifetime, Gaia will conduct an all-sky survey yielding more than 100 TB of raw observation data from which an astrometric catalogue of >1 billion celestial objects will be generated. The complex data processing and catalogue creation is carried out by the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium (DPAC) of which the ESAC Science Operations Centre is an integral part. It plays a central role in defining the overall system architecture of the Science Ground Segment and developing and executing parts of the core data reduction systems. This includes operation of the so-called daily processing chain and the Astrometric Global Iterative Solution. ESAC also forms the hub for all data exchanges among the six DPAC Data Processing Centres (DPCs).

The postholder will report to the Gaia Science Operations Manager and will be responsible for overseeing and managing all the day-to-day operations of the data processing systems at DPC-ESAC, notably the daily processing chain, the reliable creation of standard initial data products and their daily dissemination to other Gaia processing centres.

In addition, specific tasks will include:

- leading a small team of operators and system testers;
- planning, coordinating and supervising all activities related to the testing, integration, and deployment of all operational systems;
- participating in the optimisation of operational software processing systems;
- acting as manager of DPC-ESAC for DPAC, including reporting duties and liaising with relevant external partners as needed;
- devising, implementing, monitoring and optimising operational procedures as needed;

- applying and optimising QA rules and practices, following ECCS standards where applicable and taking into account (and feeding back to) corresponding efforts at Division and Department level (including lessons learned process).

**QUALIFICATIONS** Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree in a mathematical and/or physical discipline and a strong background in IT/computer science.

Extensive experience in the field of science operations including operations of large, complex science data processing systems, preferably in the context of ESA missions, is required. Experience and knowledge of Gaia science operations is a distinct advantage. Good communication skills are required to effectively lead the operations team and report to and liaise with external partners as needed.

Candidates should have experience of managing small teams. They should have good analytical and organisational skills, and a proactive attitude towards solving problems. They should have good interpersonal skills along with the ability to work effectively in a team environment.

For behavioural competencies expected from ESA staff, please refer to the [ESA Competency Framework](#).

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

**CLOSING DATE** The closing date for applications is **1 December 2015**.

Applications from external candidates for this post should preferably be made [online](#) from the ESA website ([www.esa.int/careers](http://www.esa.int/careers)). Those unable to apply online should submit their CV to Human Resources, ESAC, P.O. Box 78, 28691 Villanueva de la Cañada (Madrid), Spain.

ESA staff members wishing to apply should fill in the [Internal Application Form](#) and email it to [Apply2ESAC](#).

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, Estonia, 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.**