

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

Head of the Energy Storage and Power Laboratories Section in the Power Systems Division, Electrical Engineering 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).

DUTIES

Reporting to the Head of the Power Systems Division, the Head of the Energy Storage and Power Laboratories Section is responsible for managing the Section and for carrying out the following duties:

- ensuring a positive and motivating working environment for the Section;
- managing the workforce of the Section, with accountability for all resources and activities delegated to the Section;
- maintaining and developing the expertise and technical competence of the Section's members to meet current and future strategic needs, taking due account of their motivation, aspirations and professional development with appropriate opportunity for laboratory work;
- distributing and assigning the tasks of the Section to its members, monitoring and managing their performance and providing timely and regular feedback;
- anticipating and resolving sensitive or difficult situations, liaising with HR as required;
- negotiating, organising and coordinating the specialist support provided by the Section to ESA projects throughout all phases;
- preparing resource requirements based on needs originating from both inside and outside the Section and resolving conflicting demands on the use of the resources available in the Section;
- establishing and maintaining good working relationships and technical networks with users, project groups and other organisational bodies, both inside and outside the Agency;
- contributing to the continuous improvement of working procedures and to the reflection on the evolution of the Section's role and activities.

The Energy Storage and Power Laboratories Section covers all aspects related to energy storage for space applications (typically: primary and secondary batteries, fuel cells, supercapacitors). Within this domain of competence, the Section is responsible for:

- defining, promoting and implementing, in line with anticipated technology trends and project needs, the Section's contributions to ESA technology programmes and R&D activities;
- coordinating, where applicable, the requirements of technology elements in the Section's domain of competence with the overall requirements of systems being developed under the responsibility of other D/TEC areas;
- providing expert functional support to all ESA satellite missions and launchers, in all project phases;
- maintaining state-of-the-art expertise, through the execution of the yearly plan for Technical Assessment and related hands-on activities, by keeping roadmaps up to date and driving the periodic harmonisation exercise in the Section's domain of expertise as well as by driving selected technology activities of specific importance for the Section or Division and supporting the definition of European standards related to the Section's domain of competence;

- supporting the development, maintenance and evolution of the engineering tools used by the Division in support of its duties.

Moreover, the Section provides the following support to all laboratories of the Power Systems Division:

- coordinating the Division's laboratory activities, ensuring proper prioritisation of tasks;
- assisting the Division Head with the preparation and execution of the investment and maintenance plans;
- carrying out maintenance and testing activities in the laboratories.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have demonstrated managerial potential, be able to lead and motivate a team of experts and organise their activities, as well as to represent the interests of the Agency to the outside world.

Candidates should have good leadership, interpersonal and communication skills. They should have the ability to work autonomously, effectively 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 also have good analytical, organisational and reporting skills, a proactive attitude to solving problems and an interest in innovative technologies.

Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in a discipline related to energy storage systems with several years of experience in the domain of energy storage systems for space applications.

Preference will be given to candidates with:

- a good knowledge of space energy storage systems;
- a good practice of laboratory work;
- experience in the support of space projects and in driving R&D activities.

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 languages is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **14 January 2016**.

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

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, Hungary, 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.