

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

ESA is an equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving diversity within the workforce and creating an inclusive working environment. Applications from women are encouraged.

POST Head of the Mission Management and Ground Segment Department in the [Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes](#).

This post is classified A6 on the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

LOCATION ESRIN, Frascati, (Italy).

DUTIES The postholder will report to the ESA Director of Earth Observation Programmes (D/EOP) and will be responsible for the design, development and operation of the Ground Segments of ESA Earth Observation (EO) missions and several non-ESA missions. This includes overall mission responsibility (Mission Management) after In-Orbit-Commissioning. Specific tasks will be:

- preparation, implementation and operation of EO mission ground segments consisting of various components, such as planning, instrument calibration/validation/operation, data reception/distribution, data processing, archiving and user services. This implies the coordination of contributions from ESRIN, ESOC, ESTEC, industry, scientific institutions, and other partners;
- overall EO Mission Management in the exploitation phase to meet stakeholders' requirements, in particular those of Member States, the EU and various user communities. Experience derived from these activities becomes an important input for the definition of new missions;
- designing, implementing and managing modern EO data management infrastructures and corresponding processes including aspects of data generation, data access and data quality/integrity in order to obtain maximum benefit for the users and expand the user base;
- designing, implementing and coordinating innovative Ground Segment architectures by integrating state-of-the art ICT processes and technology in partnership with other European stakeholders (EU, Member States, industry) based on the current Ground Segment evolution strategy ("EO Innovation Europe");
- integration of relevant ESA strategy elements, such as Space 4.0, ESA Digital Agenda for Space, etc. into EO Ground Segments, Mission Management and Operations;
- implementation of the Copernicus space component operations concept of Sentinels and contributing missions jointly with the EU, including its future evolution;
- arranging access to Third-Party and Copernicus contributing mission data with other EO satellite operators;
- formulation of any updates of ESA EO data policy;
- implementation of special projects and related Technological Research and Development for Ground Segment infrastructure and innovation in the area of Big Data;

- management and budget responsibility for the implementation of the above tasks.

Following the 2016 ESA Ministerial Council, the description of tasks and responsibilities may be adapted accordingly.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in engineering, space applications or information technologies relevant to space data together with at least 10 years of experience in space programme management, engineering and operations.

Candidates should have:

- excellent knowledge of ESA Programme Management Processes and collaboration with Member States, industry, data users and the EU;
- solid technical and programmatic understanding of space or ground segment development or operations in the national, international and industrial context, ideally in Earth observation;
- substantial experience with project and resource management;
- soft skills to manage a large team of ESA staff, industry and partners in a fast-paced, complex environment;
- strong ambassadorship skills in representing ESA, making a strong and positive personal impact.

For behavioural competencies expected from ESA staff in general, 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 together with a working knowledge of the other. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **20 September 2016**.

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 CV to Human Resources, ESA, 8-10 rue Mario-Nikis, 75738 Paris, Cedex 15 (France).

ESA staff members wishing to apply should fill in the [Internal Application Form](#) and email it to [Apply2HQ](#).

Please note that applicants may be required to undergo aptitude testing, including recognised psychometric testing as well as problem-solving and decision-making exercises.

If you require support with your application due to a disability, please email contact.human.resources@esa.int.

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.

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.