EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Technical and Quality Management

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	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).
DUTIES	The postholder will report to the Head of the Software Product Assurance (SPA) Section. The Section is responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of SPA expertise and standards and for providing support to European Space Agency projects in the area of software product assurance.

Specific responsibilities and tasks will include:

- preparing and implementing general programmatic and technical SPA requirements in relation to Agency standards and specifications;

- establishing project-specific programmatic and technical SPA requirements based on the ESA product assurance baseline;

- supporting projects in the evaluation of contractors' plans, technical specifications, and efforts proposed for the execution of SPA programmes;

- supporting projects in the monitoring of the performance of the contractors' SPA programmes to ensure their compliance with the SPA requirements established for the projects;

- evaluating proposed concepts, designs, and operations for compliance with defined SPA requirements;

- initiating and executing research and study activities in the fields of SPA requirements, techniques, methodologies and tools;

- performing audits of contractors and their in-house standards for compliance with ESA requirements and assessing the maturity of contractors' software processes;

- liaising with software engineering specialists on related matters;

- contributing to dissemination of the results of the activities performed and the transfer of knowledge across the Agency.

QUALIFICATIONS   Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in computer science, mathematics or software engineering, and experience in at least three of the following areas: software product assurance in critical real-time applications, software engineering, software configuration management, dependability assessment of software intensive systems, computer-aided software development and maintenance, maturity assessment and auditing.

Candidates should have good interpersonal and communication skills. They should have the ability to work autonomously, effectively and cooperatively in a diverse and international team environment and to define and implement solutions in line with team and individual objectives and project deadlines.

In addition, applicants should have good analytical, organisational and reporting skills, a proactive attitude to solving problems and an interest in innovative technologies.

Candidates must be eligible for security clearance by their national security administration.

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. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

CLOSING DATE   The closing date for applications is **29 November 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 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.

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

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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, 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.