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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Science

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

Applied Physicist/Engineer in the Payload Technology Validation Section, Future Missions Department, Directorate of Science.

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

LOCATION

ESTEC, Noordwijk (The Netherlands).

DUTIES

The Section is in charge of mission-oriented validation activities for science missions, aiming to reduce development risks in the implementation phase. It also provides general support to the Directorate's other Departments for specific validation activities, for missions under development or during operations.

Reporting to the Head of Section, the postholder will perform these main tasks (list not exhaustive):

- providing technical, engineering and scientific support for validation activities in the Section (test plan preparation with respect to mission needs, test equipment definition and commissioning, testing and result analysis) primarily in (but not limited to) the area of near- to long-wave infrared focal plane technologies including both detector and readout electronics aspects;
- supporting the development and maintenance of the technical infrastructure needed to validate payload technologies;
- generally supporting office activities; contributing to the elaboration and implementation of the Science Programme technology development plans;
- evaluation of proposals in response to calls for missions, participation in reviews, payload expertise in support of system studies.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a university PhD or Master's degree in physics or space engineering, with particular emphasis on semiconductor detector technology and related front-end electronics for space science applications. This should be supplemented by several years' experience, in industry or at institutes, defining and testing dedicated scientific payload technologies.

Candidates should have an established track record in the field of imaging detectors, with demonstrated expertise in the infrared waveband with a strong focus on astronomy applications. Hands-on practical experience and knowledge of testing, data analysis and optoelectronic performance modelling are pre-requisites. Practical knowledge of electronics, test equipment, cryogenic technologies and optics is essential.

The successful applicant will be creative and have very good problem-solving skills. The ability to plan the work of others to achieve set goals is very important. Working within a small team, the applicant should also be flexible and able to multi-task.

Candidates are expected to be proactive, innovative and creative in their approach to work, possessing good planning and organisational skills. They should be self-motivated, disciplined, team-minded and communicate effectively.

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 **11 May 2017**.

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, 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.

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, Slovenia, 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.