

Job Title: Head of the Future Systems Department

Req ID 1201 - Posted 07/07/2017



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 Future Systems Department

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

Location

ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Description

Head of the Future Systems Department, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

Duties

Under the direct authority of the Director of Earth Observation Programmes, part of the ESA Applications Area, the Head of the Future Systems Department is a member of the Earth Observation Management Board and participates in the decision-making process for all major activities undertaken by the Directorate.

The postholder is responsible, together with a team of Division Heads, for defining future EO systems and architectures. Duties include:

- Developing an overall reference architecture for European EO systems, in coordination with mission authorities of ESA Member States, EU and EUMETSAT
- Overseeing and reporting on ESA's Copernicus activities and developing the CSC Long-Term Scenario
- Defining system requirements for all future ESA EO missions
- Implementing pre-phase-A activities for all missions
- Implementing phase-A activities for future research missions, and any mission where phase-A does not lead directly into the implementation phases (i.e. including Earth Explorers but excluding Copernicus and Meteo missions)
- Implementing pre-development activities for risk reduction in future EO instruments and missions
- Elaborating requirements for advanced technologies in the domain of Earth Observation, supporting the elaboration of corporate technology work plans and implementing studies in cooperation with the Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality, representing the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes in the framework of the Agency's end-to-end process for Technology development and relevant boards
- Establishing partnerships with economic operators to facilitate high risk/high potential developments and strengthen the global competitiveness of European industry
- Facilitating disruptive innovation in EO systems by economic operators, including SMEs, start-ups, major geo-information and IT industry giants, and actors with limited experience in the space sector, in particular via Φ -lab

- Exploring new domains for Earth Observation including the preparation of demonstrators and showcases to support funding decisions
- Developing ground and airborne instruments and defining campaign needs
- Coordinating with the other Directorates of the ESA Applications Area (Directorate of Telecommunications and Integrated Applications, Directorate of the Galileo Programme and Navigation-Related Activities) on topics of common interest

The postholder will actively work to ensure the well-being, motivation, training and career progression of the Department workforce, incentivising transparency, information flow, and coordination with other Departments and Directorates.

The postholder will liaise with external entities (Member State Delegations, industry (space and non-space), academia, international partners, stakeholder organisations) to promote and develop ESA EO activities.

Technical competencies

Broad knowledge of scientific discipline, including strategic vision of the area Earth Science

Knowledge & understanding of the Agency's core business

Knowledge of EO technical domains and related R&D space industry trends

Knowledge of relevant strategic and technological trends and developments, both inside and outside the space domain, and their potential impact on the activities of the Department

Knowledge of the European and international space sector (institutional, commercial and/or industrial)

Leadership competencies

Developing & motivating people

Leading change

Strategic vision & business context

Innovation & creativity

Behavioural competencies

Ambassadorship

Communication

Responsible decision-making

Education

Applicants should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant engineering discipline, and a successful track-record in managing large Earth Observation programmes, preferably in an international context.

Other information

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.

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

The closing date for applications is 18 August 2017.

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 and Slovenia.

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.

