

Job Title: Atmospheric Scientist

Req ID 1423 - Posted 27/07/2017



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

Atmospheric Scientist

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

Location

ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Description

Atmospheric Scientist in the Earth and Mission Science Division in the Science, Applications and Climate Department, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes.

Duties

The postholder reports to the Head of the Atmospheric Section in the Earth and Mission Science Division of the Science, Applications and Climate Department.

The main responsibilities are to develop scientific and user-related aspects of future satellite missions addressing Earth atmosphere physical processes. Tasks include establishing and maintaining the mission requirements, and scientific studies and research tasks in support of Research, Copernicus, Earth Watch or Operational Meteorology missions, from their early phases ('ideas') through implementation to mission operations.

With the support of the Division's other scientific Sections and the Campaign Coordinators, the specific tasks related to Earth atmospheric activities for which the postholder is responsible include:

- supporting the identification and critical review of Earth Observation user requirements, advising the Head of Division on the needs, interests and aspirations of the atmospheric user communities;
- supporting scientific evaluation of proposals and selection of future missions for implementation;
- contributing to the preparation and elaboration of candidate Research, Copernicus, Earth Watch or Operational Meteorology missions, including capturing and elaborating observational requirements (Mission Requirements Document), ensuring traceability of satellite systems/payload requirements, defining data processing requirements; this is expected for operational follow-on missions to MTG, MetOp-SG and for Copernicus next-generation for those strongly linked to atmospheric physics;
- acting as the custodian of EO satellite mission requirements and as Mission Scientist during the assessment and implementation phases of related missions;
- providing Mission Scientist support to approved satellite mission projects throughout their development, calibration/validation, commissioning and operations phases, to ensure their payload and the end-to-end system fulfil the relevant mission requirements;
- establishing, maintaining and convening international advisory groups related to these missions; conducting and supervising in-house and external scientific studies; organising mission-specific science workshops/conferences, supporting geophysical algorithm development and related research;
- participating in preparation of calibration/validation and research Announcements of Opportunity and evaluation of corresponding proposals;
- advising the Division's Campaigns Section on scientific requirements for definition and implementation of aircraft and ground-based campaigns/experiments in association with geophysical algorithm development, product simulation or mission performance assessment;

- communicating on ESA studies results and EO mission achievements for further outreach of EO science benefits to society;
- contributing to the Agency's public communication and outreach on EO;
- supporting the work of Young Graduate Trainees and Research Fellows.

In performing these tasks, the Atmospheric Scientist will be expected to work closely with the Future Missions and Instruments, Project and Mission Management Teams of the Directorate. The postholder is also responsible for ensuring that tasks are carried out within agreed planning and financial constraints, proposing corrective action as necessary.

Technical competencies

Knowledge of scientific discipline, including strategic vision of the area of Earth Observation

Knowledge of international scientific community

Knowledge of space projects, including instrumentation and operations

Experience in mission, spacecraft and/or payload operations

Knowledge of development and use of (complex) science instrumentation for research

Major international initiatives related to Earth Observation (eg.: CEOS, GEO, UN Environmental Conventions)

Experience in atmospheric physics

Experience in meteorology

Experience in remote sensing retrieval techniques

Experience in radiative transfer modelling

Behavioural competencies

Ambassadorship

Communication

Problem solving

Relationship management

Systems & broader business thinking

Teamwork

Planning & organisation

Additional requirements

Demonstrated experience in performing independent atmospheric research.

Education

PhD or equivalent degree in Atmospheric Physics or Meteorology

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.

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

The closing date for application is 25 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.

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.