

Job Title: Head of the Mission Operations Division in the Operations Department

Req ID 6521 - Posted 13/07/2018



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

Head of the Mission Operations Division in the Operations Department
This post is classified A5 of the Coordinated Organisations salary scale.

Location

ESAC, Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain

Description

Under the direct authority of the Head of the Operations Department, the postholder is responsible for the overall management of the operations and for the execution of the science operations of the Directorate missions, after successful completion of in-orbit commissioning. The postholder will work in close collaboration with other elements of the Directorate including the Science Support Office, the Management Support Office and the Projects Department.

Duties

The main duties include:

- overall managing of Science Directorate missions in orbit, following commissioning and until the end of in-orbit operations, interfacing as required with the Directorate of Operations;
- being responsible for all schedule, budget, staffing and operational performance aspects of missions under the Division's responsibility and ensuring that the necessary resources are available on time within the programme-level constraints;
- executing the science operations of missions under the Division's responsibility;
- ensuring that the maximum scientific return is maintained as a target throughout the operational phases of the Division's missions;
- maintaining a positive and motivating working environment in the Division;
- managing the Division's workforce with accountability for all resources and activities delegated to it;
- maintaining and developing Division members' expertise and scientific/technical competence in order to meet current and future needs, taking due account of their motivation, aspirations and professional development;
- participating in the research activities of the Department and fostering ongoing research by Division personnel;
- monitoring ongoing science operations activities and new concepts internally and externally for potential relevance to future missions.

Technical competencies

Experience in science operations, preferably in the context of ESA missions

Knowledge of space projects, including instrumentation and operations

Managing large technical and scientific teams

Experience in interfacing with external parties, especially the scientific community and Principal Investigator teams

Experience in research in space science

Leadership competencies

Driving performance

Fostering cooperation & effective team-working

Developing & motivating people

Strategic vision & business context

Behavioural competencies

Responsible Decision-Making
Communication
Planning & Organisation
Customer Focus

Education

Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent degree in astrophysics, physics or space/planetary/heliospheric science.

Additional requirements

It is desirable that candidates also:

- have proven experience of leading, motivating and developing large teams in an international science context, a specific asset being experience of managing managers and multiple teams;
- be able to anticipate problems, solve complex issues and relate situations to context;
- be able to reach solution-oriented, pragmatic and timely decisions of high standard and integrity while also supporting others (team members, upper management, other stakeholders) in this process.

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 applications is 31 August 2018.

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, Canada and Slovenia.

According to the ESA Convention the recruitment of staff must take into account an adequate distribution of posts among nationals of the ESA Member States. When short-listing for an interview, priority will first be given to internal candidates and secondly to external candidates from under-represented Member States.

(<http://esamultimedia.esa.int/docs/careers/NationalityTargets.pdf>)

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.