

Job Title: System and Operations Manager

Req ID 8281 - Posted 17/01/2019



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

System and Operations Manager

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

Location

ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Description

Working in the Copernicus Sentinel-3 Project Division, Earth Observation Projects Department, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes and reporting to the Sentinel-3 Project Manager, the Mission, System and Operations Manager will be responsible for the overall analysis, specification and implementation of the Sentinel 3 system and mission requirements, as well as for the preparation for its operations during all phases up to and including in-orbit commissioning and support to the routine operational elements. This includes all development and validation activities related to onboard software.

Duties

- maintaining and possibly updating the Sentinel-3 system definition (including space segment and level-1 data processing, launch vehicle, flight operations segment, payload data segment and other external elements) and associated Mission Analysis;
- monitoring the mission-related industrial work to ensure the performance of all satellite functional chains is suitable for the mission;
- verifying that requirements are met coherently and cost-effectively;
- ensuring that the definition of mission-specific elements is properly maintained, updated and validated in liaison with the Payload Data Ground Segment (PDGS) and Flight Operations Segment (FOS) coordinators and other relevant teams within ESA and with external partners (e.g. Eumetsat, CNES);
- technical responsibility for aspects related to onboard software development and validation;
- establishing a coherent Satellite System Validation Test (SSVT) programme for the purpose of combined satellite/ground segment operations verification and coordinating its implementation;
- monitoring, with Payload Manager support, the end-to-end data flow from geophysical parameters, through the instruments and satellite systems up to the final data products, ensuring availability of all required models and tools;
- organising the resolution of in-orbit anomalies involving appropriate expert support;
- establishing, in cooperation with the FOS and PDGS, the Launch & Early Orbit Phase (LEOP) and the in-flight satellite commissioning and verification;
- coordinating together with the PDGS and relevant parties (e.g. CNES for the topographic mission) the instrument and level-1 product verification (Cal/Val activities) during the commissioning phase;
- maintaining, updating and controlling, from the satellite systems point of view, the interfaces to the ground segment elements involved in operating the satellite or processing the provided data;
- ensuring, with the Engineering & AIV Manager, suitable commonality between AIT & Operations procedures and databases;
- liaising, in combination with the Payload Manager, with the Mission Science Division for the maintenance and evolution of high-level mission requirements;

- liaising closely with other project sections to ensure a consistent approach to satellite procurement, verification, launch and in-orbit operations preparations;
- supporting the general project reporting tasks (monthly, QSR) and other Department-level support activities as required.

Technical competencies

Experience in mission, spacecraft and/or payload operations
Experience in satellite in-orbit commissioning and performance verification methodologies
Experience in the management and monitoring of industrial activities, including participation in reviews
Experience with definition and review of payload and spacecraft calibration programs
Knowledge and experience of ground segment, simulators and early operations
Knowledge of all phases of the software development lifecycle
Satellite systems and ground segment architecture

Leadership competencies

Driving performance
Developing & motivating people
Fostering cooperation & effective team-working

Behavioural competencies

Communication
Problem Solving
Results Orientation
Planning & Organisation

Education

Applicants should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant engineering field, together with a good knowledge of satellite operations and space-to-ground interfaces.
Additional experience in the definition and implementation of ground tools supporting satellite commissioning activities would be desirable.

Additional requirements

In performing these duties, the Mission, System and Operations Manager will lead a section of engineers and will liaise closely with the other sections of the project and with other relevant Copernicus entities.
Furthermore, he will constitute the main interface point between the ESA Sentinel-3 Project and EUMETSAT for the implementation of the ESA-EUMETSAT Sentinel-3 cooperation agreement. The post holder will be supported by a team of engineers shared among the Copernicus Space Component and by specialized engineering support from the Directorate of Technical and Quality Management.

In addition, candidates should have:

- the potential to manage individuals or a team in a project.
- the ability to organise their activities and ensure a motivating work environment
- strong leadership capabilities, with proven relationship management and communication skills
- the ability to drive their team's performance, developing their people by encouraging learning, delegating responsibility and giving regular and constructive feedback
- strong problem-solving skills to deal with day-to-day operational challenges, together with demonstrated planning and organisational skills
- a strong results orientation with the ability to set priorities and present practical solutions both orally and in writing
- the ability to manage challenging situations proactively and constructively and to be customer focused.

Previous people management experience is an asset for the position, as is international experience, i.e. outside the candidate's home country, as well as experience in diverse functional areas relevant to the activities of ESA.

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 14 February 2019.

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.

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.

Recruitment will normally be at the first grade in the band (A2); however, if the candidate selected has little or no experience, the position may be filled at A1 level.