

Job Title: Internal Research Fellow (PostDoc) for Political Analysis and Management Engineering

Req ID 9121 - Posted 19/12/2019



EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Research Fellowship Opportunity 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 Internal Research Fellow (PostDoc) for Political Analysis and Management Engineering

This post is classified F2.

Location ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Our team and mission
Europe has acquired worldwide leadership in Earth observation, which spans scientific, applications and commercial sectors. EO is indispensable for applications where Europe has the ambition to be a global actor, in areas such as climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals and for services that affect the daily lives of citizens. The EU's Copernicus Programme and Eumetsat's meteorological programmes, all being implemented in collaboration with ESA, together with ESA's Envelope Programme and national initiatives in EO constitute the backbone of the European leadership worldwide, achieved mostly through public investment.

Policy decisions are linked to the technical design of a complex, publicly-funded space system as an external constraint. Governments and the public sector finance the research and development of EO satellites, purchase and operate them and procure services provided by EO space-based systems. The great extent of the government involvement coupled with the high technical complexity require the integration of both the technical and the political aspects as the system is conceived.

Policy decisions impact EO system architecture objectives, which are successively reflected in the system technical requirements. The latter in turn drive programme cost, performance, scheduling and risk which are parameters of primary importance to policy-makers.

The interaction of policy factors with system design cannot be treated like traditional technical constraints and requires a new framework in which the political/economic and technical aspects of system design interact.

You will be expected to support office endeavours in this field by analysing the interactions between the political, technical and operational domains for EO in Europe and investigating the potential role private actors can play in this ecosystem.

Field(s) of activities/research The research should be done in three steps:

1. Analyse the interactions between the political, technical and operational domains for the Copernicus Programme from its inception until today as a case study.
2. Extrapolate from the Copernicus case to an ideal holistic European EO programme that encompasses Copernicus, ESA EO programmes, Eumetsat and national missions, each of them maintaining their known governance.
3. Analyse and identify paths for the potential or emerging role of European industry under this holistic scenario.

Technical competencies

Knowledge relevant to the field of research
Research/publication record
Ability to conduct research autonomously
Breadth of exposure coming from past and/or current research/activities
General interest in space and space research
Ability to gather and share relevant information

Behavioural competencies

Innovation & Creativity
Continuous Learning
Communication
Relationship Management
Self Motivation
Problem Solving
Cross-Cultural Sensitivity

Education

Applicants should have recently completed, or be close to completion of a PhD in a related technical or scientific discipline. Preference will be given to applications submitted by candidates within five years of receiving their PhD. In particular for this position, the following is required:
PhD or equivalent qualification in political science, economy.

Additional requirements

A knowledge of European space policy, industrial economics and European stakeholders are an asset.

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.

Other information

For behavioural competencies expected from ESA staff in general, please refer to the [ESA Competency Framework](#).

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

The closing date for applications is 23 January 2020.

In addition to your CV and your motivation letter, please add your proposal of no more than 5 pages outlining your proposed research in the "additional documents" field of the "application information" section.

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, and the United Kingdom. Nationals from Slovenia, as an Associate Member, or Canada as a Cooperating State, can apply as well as those from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia as European Cooperating States (ECS).

Priority will first be given to 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

