

Job Title: Mars/Moon Sample Scientist

Req ID **9221** - Posted **27/03/2020**

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Human & Robotic Exploration 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

Mars/Moon Sample Scientist

This post is for a limited duration of 4 years non-renewable and is classified in the A2-A4 grade band of the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

Location

ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Description

Mars/Moon Sample Scientist, in the SciSpacE Team, Research and Utilisation Group, Directorate of Human & Robotic Exploration Programmes.

A scientist with expertise in analysis of extra-terrestrial samples is being sought to support preparation of future missions to return samples from the Moon and Mars and support development of ground-based capabilities for sample analysis/curation. Your primary role will be to lead scientific preparations for sample curation/analysis on the ground for the Mars Sample-Return Campaign, as preparation for a joint NASA-ESA activity for lunar missions under study at ESA, and for lunar missions with international partners including the NASA-led Artemis human-rated programme and the Chinese Chang'e programme. This includes supporting definition of sample curation facilities, preparing their development, supporting establishment of sample management approaches, for both Europe and international partnerships, establishing coordination approaches for sample analysis campaigns, working with the European sample science community to ensure readiness for participation in sample-return missions in the next decade/beyond.

You will work closely with the MSR Project Scientist and other ESA staff/contractors across the Agency involved in missions, studies, research & technology development activities related to extra-terrestrial samples. Scientific research using such samples is encouraged as part of your duties, using facilities within ESA centres and those accessed through partnerships with external organisations.

Duties

Reporting to the SciSpacE Team Leader, your primary duties include:

- defining requirements for sample curation facilities for extraterrestrial samples, supporting development of sample curation facilities;
- defining sample management processes/approaches and implementation of sample management for extraterrestrial samples;
- preparing sample curation and sample science management with international partners, in
- coordination with the MSR Project Scientist for Mars samples, interfacing with the Sample Analogue Curation Facility (SACF) located at ESA ECSAT;
- providing scientific expertise/support to projects and studies in areas related to sample science, acting as study scientist for SR mission studies;
- coordinating/chairing meetings and activities associated with sample analysis science teams, committees, working groups;
- advising project managers on technical/operational aspects potentially affecting activities' ability to meet science objectives;
- providing scientific input/guidance to execution of mission operations including operations planning, calibration, sample analysis procedures, data product deliveries;
- representing interests of the sample analysis scientific community, including organising activities related to their participation in ESA activities;
- preparing reports for presentation internally/externally, including to the ESA advisory structure;
- providing support to other ESA studies/projects linked to human and robotic exploration science;
- actively pursuing personal scientific research, participating in research activities;

- supporting ESA outreach, communication and education activities in planetary and space science and exploration, promoting its activities and scientific results to a variety of audiences, including the general public.

Technical competencies

Understanding of the current state of scientific knowledge at the given destination and an awareness of priorities for future research

Experience with extraterrestrial sample analysis including in high-precision analytical techniques, sample preparation and contamination control

Knowledge of scientific management of samples, including curation and facility requirements

Experience of the organisation of international scientific projects or campaigns

Experience in managing technical and scientific teams

Research/publication record

Behavioural competencies

Ambassadorship

Communication

Relationship Management

Teamwork

Problem Solving

Education

You should have a PhD in Earth science, planetary science or a closely related discipline.

Additional requirements

Liaise effectively with scientists and engineers. Affinity for communication and outreach.

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 17 April 2020.

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 view of the limited duration of this post, internal candidates are strongly advised to contact their HR advisor before applying.

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.