

Head of the Planetary Defence Office

Job Req ID: 12615

Closing Date: 8 September 2021

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Vacancy Type: Permanent

Date Posted: 28 July 2021

Description

You will report to the Head of the Space Safety Programme Office and be responsible for planetary defence activities under the OPS-led programmes, with support from the Space Safety Ground Segment Manager and Data Systems Manager.

Duties

The main responsibilities will be the following:

- Managing planetary defence activities for ESA's Space Safety Programme and providing associated reports to the Programme Boards;
- In liaison with the Ground Segment Manager and the Data Systems Manager, ensuring the definition, development, deployment and operation of planetary defence observational capabilities;
- Acting as project manager for the planetary defence-related part of the Contribution Agreement with the European Commission;
- Ensuring the smooth operations and management of the Planetary Defence team, in particular at the NEO Coordination Centre at ESRI, including the drawing up of functional requirements for NEO-related software. This includes following up all NEO-related activities performed by the Ground Segment Manager and Data Systems Manager and acting as the ultimate customer;
- Developing and putting in place procedures for a proper response to an asteroid impact threat, both internal to ESA and its Member States, and in the international environment. This includes supporting the activities of the UN-endorsed "International Asteroid Warning Network" and the "Space Missions Planning Advisory Group";
- Preparing and supporting continuous development of the Space Safety programme as required by the Head of the S2P Office;
- Initiating and implementing top-level security requirements for processes and data systems;
- Setting up and managing planetary defence-related research and technology activities under ESA's study programme and coordinating them via TECNET.

For the above tasks, you will receive the support of staff in OPS and in other ESA Directorates.

Technical competencies

Experience in supporting ESA programmes/projects and knowledge of their technical and programmatic requirements in relevant technical domains

Management of service contracts

Management of industrial activities

Understanding of system requirements and interfaces

Knowledge of ESA technology programmes and the organisation of R&D activities

Knowledge of the industrial landscape and ability to define technology development roadmaps identifying future trends in technology requirements

Project and risk management

Behavioural competencies

Result Orientation

Operational Efficiency

Fostering Cooperation

Relationship Management

Continuous Improvement

Forward Thinking

Education

A Master's degree in physics, astronomy, or aerospace engineering is required for this post.

Additional requirements

A solid background in all technical matters relating to near-Earth objects and experience in at least one of the following: observation of space objects, including telescope systems; orbit determination of asteroids; and astrodynamics software development. Experience with ESA's SSA/S2P programmes is a strong asset.

You should also have:

- the potential to manage individuals or a team
- 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 your team's performance, developing your people by encouraging learning, delegating responsibility and giving regular, 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.

People management experience is an asset, as is international experience, i.e. outside your home country, as well as experience in diverse functional areas relevant to ESA activities. Frequent travel within Europe, in particular between the location of the NEO Coordination Centre (ESRIN/Frascati, Italy) and the Space Safety management team at ESOC/Darmstadt, Germany, is foreseen to support continued implementation of the NEO segment.