

Head of the Copernicus Space Office

Job Req ID: 15482

Closing Date: 16 June 2022

Publication: Internal & External

Vacancy Type: Permanent

Date Posted: 19 May 2022

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. We therefore welcome applications from all qualified candidates irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, beliefs, age, disability or other characteristics. Applications from women are encouraged.

This post is classified A5 on the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

Location

ESRIN, Frascati, Italy

Description

The Head of the Copernicus Space Office reports to the Director of Earth Observation Programmes and performs the lead role for the strategic, coordination and managerial activities related to Copernicus. He acts as interface with the European Commission for Copernicus.

The Copernicus Space Office is the visible interface for ESA's Copernicus activities within and outside ESA, ensures their coordination by the implementing departments and, ultimately, ensures the oversight of the Copernicus Space Component (CSC). The Office also coordinates related activities with other ESA services and directorates and liaises with the Commission, national bodies, industry and other partners as required. It prepares all ESA programmatic documents for Copernicus and supports the negotiations necessary with ESA Member State delegations, the Commission, and other partners involved in the CSC.

Duties

Your duties will be:

- to monitor the Agency's Copernicus activities and ensure their coordination;
- to ensure cooperation with the Commission in the implementation of Copernicus by interfacing:
 - with the DG DEFIS Earth Observation Unit and other Commission services;
 - with the ESA Directorate of European, Legal & International Matters.
- to coordinate the implementation of the Agreements with the EU/Commission on Copernicus (Copernicus Agreement, EU-ESA FFPA and Contribution Agreement) via the ESA-EU matters Committee, including reporting obligations to the Commission and ESA Member States and support negotiations for any amendments conducted under the lead of the Director of European, Legal and International Matters;
- to initiate and coordinate ESA Copernicus Space Component Programme planning;

- to prepare Copernicus programmatic documents and support the necessary negotiations with ESA delegations, the Commission and other partners involved in the Copernicus Space Component;
- to coordinate the related reviews and monitor the implementation of recommendations;
- to make proposals for the use of resources allocated to the CSC Programme based on inputs from the departments, and prepare decisions for the Director of Earth Observation Programmes as required;
- to coordinate the implementation of Copernicus activities resulting from the European Space Policy and related programmatic decisions on Copernicus;
- to initiate Copernicus Outreach activities and support the implementation of Copernicus communication activities in the context of the EOP communication strategy prepared and managed by the EOP Strategy, Programme and Coordination Office;
- to contribute to the strategy, and preparation of the evolution of the CSC and its system architecture, as well as security aspects, in cooperation with the relevant EOP Architecture Office;
- to monitor the Copernicus services and in-situ components and identify issues relevant to the space component;
- to execute socioeconomic benefit studies to evaluate the impact of Copernicus on a European and global scale;
- to interface with ESA internal services in other directorates, departments and offices as deemed

Technical competencies

Understanding of EO principles, missions, projects and applications

Knowledge of current, planned and potential EO commercial (incl. NewSpace) and institutional programmes and associated development strategies

Knowledge of the Copernicus programme and ESA's role within the programme

Knowledge of EU policies

Knowledge of End-to-end system architectures for the ESA Applications Domains (EO, Telecom, Navigation)

Behavioural competencies

Result Orientation

Operational Efficiency

Fostering Cooperation

Relationship Management

Continuous Improvement

Forward Thinking

Education

A master's degree in an engineering or scientific discipline is required for this post.

Additional requirements

You should have at least 10 to 15 years of experience in the EO space sector. Experience in the following domains will be an asset:

- working with the European Commission, including having a sound understanding of their rules and procedures that are relevant for this post;
- defining and implementing strategic roadmaps;
- EO applications and business development.

You must be highly motivated and dedicated, take ownership and act proactively. As a leader, 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 and constructive feedback;
- strong problem-solving skills to deal with day-to-day operational challenges, together with demonstrated planning and organisational skills;
- strong result 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.

Other Information

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

For further information please visit: [Professionals](#), [What we offer](#) and [FAQ](#)

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.

At the Agency we value diversity and we welcome people with disabilities. Whenever possible, we seek to accommodate individuals with disabilities by providing the necessary support at the workplace. The Human Resources Department can also provide assistance during the recruitment process. If you would like to discuss this further please contact us at 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, Latvia, Lithuania 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 or balanced Member States*.
 (<https://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 conducted by an external background screening service.

*Member States, Associate Members or Cooperating States.