

Principal Systems Engineer

Job Req ID: 15781

Closing Date: 29 June 2022

Publication: Internal & External

Vacancy Type: Permanent

Date Posted: 08 June 2022

Vacancy in the Directorate of Human and Robotic Exploration 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 A2-A4 on the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

Location

ESTEC, Noordwijk, Netherlands

Description

Principal Systems Engineer in the ACES Integrated Team, Research and Payloads Group, Directorate of Human Spaceflight and Robotic Exploration.

The ACES (Atomic Clock Ensemble in Space) Principal Systems Engineer reports to the ACES Team Leader (Project Manager) and supports him in the implementation of relevant ACES project activities.

ACES is a highly accurate, ground-breaking experiment due to fly on the International Space Station. Among its objectives is to test Einstein's theory of relativity by demonstrating that the passage of time is slowed by gravity.

The ACES Principal Systems Engineer is responsible for system engineering aspects related to the ground and space segments of ACES to ensure coherence with relevant technical, operational and organisational interfaces in accordance with the approved performance, budget and schedule requirements.

Duties

Within the project guidelines and constraints set, your areas of responsibility include:

- leading system engineering activities related to overall ACES performance and acting as coordinator and facilitator in technical discussions both internally and with Airbus and its subcontractors; this will also comprise the organisation of the ACES verification closeout process;
- coordinating and facilitating the interfaces between Airbus, NASA, the launcher authority, the PHARAO team, the ESA Columbus System Engineering team, the ESA Payload Interface Manager and the ESA ACES Operations Manager together with CADMOS related to the preparation of the integration of ACES into the launch vehicle and the ISS, including the resolution of any issues arising from the ACES environmental constraints and launch vehicle requirements;
- coordinating work and reporting on a weekly basis with the Airbus ACES Chief Engineer;
- coordinating the activities related to the overall performance of ACES, including seeking pragmatic ways to ease risk and create margins in the schedule while maintaining the required scientific standards;

- assuming a coordination and board secretarial role in Project Reviews;
- supporting the ACES Team Leader in the management of risk;
- working closely with the ESA and Airbus ACES Product Assurance managers and the Airbus Chief engineer to progress technical matters in a pragmatic and efficient way while maintaining project schedule and ESA-ACES Team spirit;
- ad-hoc support to the ACES Team Leader in all other activities as needed, including deputising for the Team Leader in discussions with Airbus and reporting to management and stakeholders, as required.

The ACES Principal Systems Engineer will coordinate the activities conducted by the specialist engineers from the Directorate of Technical and Quality Management, the LEO Explorations Group, Research and Payloads Group, Science and Operations Department, and all other engineering expertise within and outside the project.

Technical competencies

General background and specific experience in the technical domains covered by the position

Knowledge of industrial costs and schedule aspects

Complex project risk management processes

Knowledge of ESA Space system development and PA standards

Knowledge of ESA and industrial development, verification and procurement processes

Experience working with other international space agencies

Behavioural competencies

Result Orientation

Operational Efficiency

Fostering Cooperation

Relationship Management

Continuous Improvement

Forward Thinking

Education

A master's degree in a relevant engineering domain is required.

Additional requirements

Demonstrated knowledge in several disciplines applied to space projects and previous experience working with NASA or on ISS payloads are considered an asset;

Experience in managing space system developments in cooperation with multiple interfaces (e.g. NASA/JPL, Industry).

In addition, a demonstrable track record of being constructive and flexible when working with an industrial prime and subcontractors is considered a necessity.

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 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, 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.

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.

*Member States, Associate Members or Cooperating States.