EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Human Spaceflight and Operations

The European Space Agency is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women

POST

CryoSat-2 Spacecraft Operations Manager (SOM) in the CRYOSAT Spacecraft Operations Unit, Earth Observation Missions Division, Mission Operations Department, Directorate of Human Spaceflight and Operations.

This post is classified in the A2/A4 grade band of the Coordinated Organisations’ salary scale.

LOCATION

ESOC, Darmstadt (Germany).

DUTIES

The postholder will be assigned initially as the CryoSat-2 Spacecraft Operations Manager and will report hierarchically to the Head of the Earth Observation Missions Division. As the CryoSat-2 Flight Operations Segment (FOS) is based on a common concept and architecture as other Earth Explorer missions, the SOM will report functionally to the Head of the Earth Explorer Management Office.

The Spacecraft Operations Manager (SOM), heading the Spacecraft Operations Unit, will fulfill the generic responsibilities for the definition, implementation and execution of mission operations. This encompasses the following main activities listed below:

- conducting all mission operations until end of mission (routine, extended mission and end of life phases), including mission planning, operations execution, reporting, anomaly investigation and resolution, evaluation and long term analysis both of the ground segment and spacecraft behaviour, and on-board software maintenance where required;

- analysing and reporting on spacecraft and ground segment performance, including support to the Mission Manager in the fulfilment of the mission performance requirements;

- interfacing with the appropriate facilities and entities in the investigation and resolution of spacecraft and ground segment anomalies;

- supporting the Mission Manager in the evolution of the mission in particular for the mission extensions, including the assessment of the impacts on the ground segment, and as required their implementation and validation;

- management, evolution and training of the Flight Control Team;

- maintenance of all the operational products required to conduct the mission, in particular the operational database and the Flight Operations Plan;
• interfacing with the user community, external operations centres and Agencies for all aspects related to the operations of the mission;

As required, the SOM assists the Division Head in discharging the Division’s mandate, and preparing for new missions to be operated by the Division.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a Master’s degree or equivalent qualification in engineering or physics, and should have practical experience in spacecraft operations and team leadership.

Candidates should be system-minded, capable of leading a team and be familiar with trade-off studies and should be able to establish working interfaces within and outside the Centre.

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these languages is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is 11 September 2014.

Applications from external candidates for this post should preferably be made on-line at the ESA Web Site (www.esa.int/careers). Those unable to apply on-line should submit their CV to the Head of the Human Resources Division, ESOC, Robert-Bosch-Str. 5, D-64293 Darmstadt, Germany.

ESA staff members wishing to apply for this post should fill in the Internal Application Form and email it to Apply2ESOC.

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

Under ESA Regulations, the age limit for recruitment is 55. Please note that applications are only considered from nationals of one of the following States: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Priority will be first given to internal candidates and secondly to external 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.