

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

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

POST Microwave Instrument Engineer in the Microwave Instruments Section, Instrument Pre-Development Division, Earth Observation Projects Department, [Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes](#).

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

LOCATION ESTEC, Noordwijk (Netherlands).

DUTIES The postholder will report to the Head of the Microwave Instruments Section and will be responsible for the definition, engineering, technology breadboarding and pre-development of microwave instruments for future Earth Observation Explorer missions and operational space missions including Eumetsat and Copernicus missions.

The types of instruments developed in the Section include passive microwave imagers/sounders for ocean, land and atmospheric sensing, and active instruments such as scatterometers, altimeters, synthetic aperture radars (SAR), subsurface sounders and atmospheric radars. Their frequency coverage extends up to the sub-mm-wave range.

The incumbent will be engaged in the study and pre-development of one or more of these instrument types focusing on either passive or active instruments.

The duties will include:

- identifying and investigating new observation principles, techniques and technologies;
- establishing requirements, defining and assessing the performance of new microwave Earth observation instruments, taking into account mission, system and programmatic requirements;
- providing expert support for studying the microwave payload aspects of new satellites and missions;
- defining, initiating and managing industrial contracts encompassing instrument concept and supporting studies and technical risk retirement on future space-borne instruments through technology development, component and sub-system breadboarding and developing instrument demonstrators;

- contributing to the preparation of technical and scientific dossiers on new Earth Explorer and operational missions;
- maintaining knowledge of relevant technology status and instrument development programmes inside and outside ESA.

In performing these tasks, the postholder will work in close coordination with staff from Earth Observation project teams, the Science, Applications & Future Technologies Department and the Technical & Quality Management Directorate.

QUALIFICATIONS Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in electrical/electronic engineering or physics plus a minimum of 5 years' relevant experience in remote-sensing microwave instruments and associated development. Familiarity with microwave remote-sensing techniques such as passive microwave imaging/sounding, altimetry and atmospheric radar sensing, and experience of hardware development and performance analysis models/tools, are desirable.

Candidates will be expected to be able to contribute to a dynamic and creative environment in preparatory phases of satellite missions. They should have good interpersonal skills and be able to work effectively both within small teams and autonomously. Experience of working in a project and/or team environment is desirable.

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 **1 April 2015**.

Applications from external candidates for this post should preferably be made [online](#) from the ESA website (www.esa.int/careers). Those unable to apply online should submit their CVs to Human Resources, ESTEC, Keplerlaan 1, 2201 AZ Noordwijk ZH, The Netherlands.

ESA staff members wishing to apply for this post should fill in the [Internal Application Form](#) and email it to [Apply2ESTEC](#).

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 first be 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.