

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Technical and Quality Management

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

POST AOCS¹ and Pointing Systems Engineer in the AOCS and Pointing Systems Section, Control Systems Division, Electrical Engineering Department, [Directorate of Technical and Quality Management](#).

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

LOCATION ESTEC, Noordwijk (Netherlands).

DUTIES The postholder will report to the Head of the AOCS and Pointing Systems Section of the Control Systems Division. The Section provides functional support to ESA projects and carries out technological research in competitive, innovative and high-accuracy control systems and attitude sensors.

The main tasks and responsibilities will include the following:

- providing support to projects, programmes and general studies in the field of AOCS and pointing systems, contributing to conceptual design studies for future missions and monitoring the activities of industrial contractors during all phases of satellite procurement, from preliminary definition to launch;
- participating in project reviews and evaluations of procurement proposals;
- identifying critical development problems and assisting with their resolution;
- contributing to the definition of technology development requirements for the Agency's technology programmes;
- defining, initiating and managing R&D activities covering both long- and short-term needs and addressing both AOCS-enabling concepts and hardware technology (star trackers, sun and earth sensors, gyroscopes and accelerometers, magnetometers, magnetic torquers, etc.);
- fostering new application areas for multidisciplinary activities, placing emphasis on innovative concepts, cutting-edge technologies and system architectures;
- participating in laboratory work for the evaluation and prototyping of new AOCS, pointing systems and attitude sensors designs;
- monitoring applicable scientific and technological trends and maintaining state-of-the-art expertise;
- contributing to the dissemination of the results of activities performed and the transfer of knowledge across the Agency.

¹ Attitude and Orbit Control Systems

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in control and aerospace engineering, with at least five years' experience in the development of satellite AOCS, preferably with exposure to the full development cycle from design to launch. Demonstrated experience in control design, analysis and simulation, as well as existing and future sensor and actuator technologies, is required.

Preference will be given to those with expertise in one or more of the following areas related to AOCS:

- failure detection, isolation and recovery (FDIR)
- software implementation
- testing and verification
- in-orbit operations.

Applicants should have good interpersonal and communication skills. They should be able to work effectively, autonomously and cooperatively in a diverse and international team environment, defining and implementing solutions in line with team and individual objectives, as well as project deadlines.

Applicants should also have good analytical, organisational and reporting skills, a proactive attitude to problem-solving and an interest in innovative technologies.

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

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 **15 March 2016**.

Applications from external candidates 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 should fill in the [Internal Application Form](#) and email it to [Apply2ESTEC](#).

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

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.

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.