

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Science and Robotic Exploration

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

POST

Instrument Operations Scientist in the Solar Orbiter Science Operations Development, Operations Development Division, Operations Department, [Directorate of Science and Robotic Exploration](#).

This post¹ is classified in the A2–A4 grade band of the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

LOCATION

ESAC, Villanueva de la Cañada, Madrid (Spain).

DUTIES

The postholder's initial assignment is to support the development and help with the definition of the science operations and data products for the payload of Solar Orbiter, as part of the Solar Orbiter Science Operations Centre (SOC). The SOC's tasks include various aspects of science operations planning, instrument handling, science data processing and archiving.

Solar Orbiter is a Cosmic Vision M-Class mission scheduled for launch in 2017. The purpose of the mission is to determine the in-situ properties and dynamics of plasma, fields and particles in the near-Sun heliosphere and to survey the fine detail of the Sun's magnetised atmosphere.

The postholder reports to the Solar Orbiter SOC Development Manager.

Specific tasks will change along with the different phases of the mission, but they will include:

- serving as interface between the Principal Investigator teams and the Science Operations Centre focusing on optimising the science return of the instruments;
- supporting the Principal Investigator teams in the preparation and execution of the calibration of their instruments;
- helping in the definition of the science operations sequences for the payload instruments;
- assisting in the design and implementation of the SOC systems;
- working with the rest of the SOC to arrive at a conflict-free schedule for the science operations of the Solar Orbiter payload;
- helping in the definition of the instrument's data products in coordination with the Archive Scientist;

¹ Supernumerary posts

- supporting the development of the instrument data analysis software.

In addition to the above functional duties, the postholder is also expected to pursue research.

The postholder may need to visit Principal Investigator home institutions frequently and, on occasion, for extended stays.

QUALIFICATIONS Applicants for this post should have a Ph.D. in physics, astronomy, engineering or a related discipline and have experience with solar remote sensing instruments, in particular with solar spectrometers. Candidates should have expertise in the field of instrument development, payload operations and data analysis, as well as being familiar with science operations of science missions.

Applicants should have excellent analytical, communication and synthesis skills and a proactive attitude to solving problems. They should have good interpersonal skills with the ability to work effectively in an international team environment and with numerous interfaces.

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 **27 August 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 CV to Human Resources, ESAC, P.O. Box 78, 28691 Villanueva de la Cañada (Madrid), Spain.

ESA staff members wishing to apply should fill in the [Internal Application Form](#) and email it to [Apply2ESAC](#).

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, 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.