

ESA/VN-ESOC(2002)003  
Paris, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002  
(Original: English)

**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

**Vacancies in the Directorate of the Scientific Programme**

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

**POST** Resident Astronomers in the ISO Data Centre, Science Operations and Data Systems Division, Research and Scientific Support Department, Directorate of the Scientific Programme. (two posts).

These posts (\*) are classified in the A2/A4 grade band of the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

**LOCATION** Villafranca del Castillo, Madrid (Spain).

**DUTIES** ISO, a satellite for infrared astronomy, made some 30000 specific scientific observations of all classes of astronomical objects during its in-orbit lifetime. As most of these observations will remain unique for decades, the ISO Data Archive is extremely valuable for further astronomical research. During the period 2002-2006, the project is in an Active Archive Phase, led by the ISO Data Centre at Villafranca, with the main aims of supporting the community in their use of ISO data and of capturing back into the archive as much as possible of the user-generated results, in order to maximize the long-term value and usability of the archive.

ASTRO-F, due for launch in 2004, is a second-generation infrared sky survey mission. It is expected to add significant information on many important astrophysical problems (e.g. evolution of galaxies, formation of stars and planets, and brown dwarfs and their relation to dark matter). ASTRO-F is an ISAS mission, with a planned ESA contribution including: provision of tracking support; making observing opportunities on ASTRO-F available to the European community; and involvement in the production of sky catalogues, which will be very valuable to the Herschel and Planck missions.

The holders of the posts will be members of the ISO Data Centre (IDC), under the overall responsibility of the ISO Project Scientist.

The ISO-related duties include:

- supporting the astronomical community in their use of ISO data by provision of expert support, advice and detailed assistance. This may include contributions to reduction algorithms and participation in the generation of data products;

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\* Supernumerary posts

- systematic scientific data processing, analysis and archiving, including liaison with the scientific community by stimulating (and participating in) systematic, scientifically focussed, data reduction projects, with the resulting data products and associated explanatory information being ingested into the archive;
- scientific research related to the ISO programme.

The expected ASTRO-F-related duties will include:

- involvement in activities related to production of the catalogues, particularly pointing reconstruction;
- distribution of observing time and data to the community, including support in their use;
- scientific research in collaboration with the ASTRO-F teams.

It is foreseen that at a later stage the post holders will also be involved in the work associated with the Herschel Science Centre.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent qualification in Astronomy, Physics, or a related discipline. Detailed experience in working with data from one or more of the ISO instruments (in particular, ISOCAM and ISOPHOT) is very important, as is the ability to work independently, taking responsibility for a body of work, while clearly remaining an emissary of the team and a vehicle of its goals. Additionally, experience in one or more of the following areas would be advantageous:

- calibration of, and data analysis for, sophisticated astronomical instruments;
- providing support to visiting astronomers;
- observational astronomy (at infrared or other wavelengths);
- developing/using software as part of a team.

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these two languages is required. Knowledge of another member state language is an asset.

## CLOSING DATE

Applications from external candidates for these posts should reach the ESOC Personnel Service not later than 15 March 2002, preferably applying [on-line](#) on the ESA Web Site ([www.esa.int/hr/](http://www.esa.int/hr/)). Those unable to apply on-line should submit their CV to the Head of Personnel Service, ESOC, Robert-Bosch strasse 5, D-64293 Darmstadt, Germany.

ESA Staff Members wishing to apply for these posts should fill in the Internal Application Form by downloading it from <http://ids2.estec.esa.int/apply>

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**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, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The United Kingdom and Canada.**