



ESO

European Organization
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



For its Operation Division at La Silla Paranal Observatory in Chile, ESO is opening the position of an

Instrumentation System Engineer / Scientist

Career Path: V

Purpose of the Job

ESO maintains and operates world-leading observatories at three sites in the north of Chile: La Silla, the VLT at Paranal and APEX near San Pedro de Atacama. The Instrumentation System Engineer will report directly to the Head of Engineering and coordinate the Observatory-wide activities in astronomical instrumentation. She/He will coach a team of highly skilled instrumentation engineers and establish strong links with his/her counterparts at the Garching Headquarters and the Instrument Scientists of the Science Operation Department at Paranal.

Context

The scientific instrument suite of the ESO VLT and VLTI is comprised of a total of 15 highly complex instruments. The Paranal Instrumentation Group is in charge of their maintenance and optimal technical performance. The Instrument Operations Teams within the Science Operation Department provides support to the science community and guarantees the scientific performance of the instruments. In view of the arrival of new instrument generations and their interface requirements, strong links have to be established and maintained between the stakeholders and internal and external project partners.

Responsibilities

Coordinate the VLT-instrumentation activities between Garching Headquarters and/or the Paranal Engineering and Science Operations Department to ensure the technical and scientific performance of the VLT/VLTI instrument suite at the Observatory.

Establish and implement instrument maintenance and calibration plans together with the Instrument Operation Teams.

Actively participate in projects related to current and future Paranal instruments, while guarding the observatory's principles in these projects.

Supervise the integration of new instruments in the Paranal Observatory ("Paranalization").

Foster the co-operation between the instrumentation groups in Paranal and Garching Headquarters.

Coach and advice the Instrumentation Group and the Instrument Operation Teams (IOT) and follow up on actions derived from the respective meetings.

Work with the Paranal and Science Operations Department in the preparation of the operation readiness of the second generation of VLT/VLTI instruments

Act as connection point between the technical and scientific groups, co-ordinate interventions and plan, manage and supervise upgrade projects together with the Garching Instrument Division.

Build up focus groups and task forces who concentrate on specific problem areas in instrumentation and supervise their activities

Evaluate and set priorities for smaller improvements of equipment and operations.

Qualifications

University degree in physics, engineering or astronomy with specialisation and/or training in particular in the field of astronomical instrumentation and/or system engineering, or equivalent.

Experience



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The ideal candidate has several years of professional experience in the field of astronomical or scientific instrument development and observatory operation. A proven record of success in system engineering would be an advantage.

Key Competences

She/he can efficiently manage time and resources and has managerial, teambuilding and leadership skills to guide, coach and supervise scientific and technical personnel.

Excellent communication skills, and excellent command of the English language and a strong sense of team spirit are essential. A working knowledge of Spanish or a willingness to learn would be an asset.

Duty Station: Paranal Observatory (120 Km South Antofagasta, North of Chile), with regular visits to La Silla and APEX.

Starting Date: As soon as possible.

Remuneration and Contract:

We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax free), comprehensive pension scheme and medical, educational and other so-

cial benefits, as well as financial support in relocating your family.

The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term or indefinite extension based on technical and managerial achievements. The title or grade may be subject to change according to qualification and the number of years of experience.

Application: If you are interested in working in areas of frontline technology and in a stimulating international environment, please visit (<http://www.eso.org>) for further details.

Applicants are invited to apply online at <https://jobs.eso.org/>. Applications must be completed in English and should include a motivation letter and CV.

Closing date for applications is 4 September 2009

Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (members are: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) no nationality is in principle excluded.

The post is equally open to suitably qualified male and female applicants.