

VN 26/32 Instrument Functional Chain Engineer

EUMETSAT is Europe's meteorological satellite agency. Its role is to establish and operate meteorological satellites to monitor the weather and climate from space - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This information is supplied to the National Meteorological Services of the organisation's Member and Cooperating States in Europe, as well as other users worldwide.

EUMETSAT is the system authority for the development of the EUMETSAT Polar Generation-Second Generation (EPS-SG) system as well as all operations of the system. End-to-End Instrument Functional Chains (IFCs) have been established for all instruments to ensure that the performance of the associated products meet the performances required by the users.

Initially reporting to the EPS-SG Instrument Functional Chain (IFC) Team Leader, the Instrument Functional Chain (IFC) Engineer is involved in tasks such as mission performance allocations and budgeting, processing chain specifications, processors Integration and Verification, and approaches for instrument calibration and product validation. Following the launch, commissioning and hand-over of the system to the Operations Department, the IFC Engineer is expected to provide support to future missions under development such as of future Copernicus Sentinel satellite systems, Future Altimetry Mission (Sentinel-6 series) and EPS-Aeolus.

Duties

- Support the production and maintenance of system level instrument functional chain requirements;
- Perform and support the allocation of system level instrument chain functional and performance requirements to system components;
- Analyse and compile end-to-end instrument functional chain
- Follow up system component design (including architecture, performances allocations and modelling, instrument calibration concepts, on-ground processing concepts, etc.) to ensure that all aspects are consistent between instrument functional chains and correctly considered to achieve end-to-end mission requirements;



LOCATION

Darmstadt,
Germany



QUALIFICATIONS

University degree in remote sensing, meteorology or equivalent



LANGUAGES

The official languages of EUMETSAT are English and French. Candidates must be able to work effectively in English and have some knowledge of French.



DEADLINE

20 July 2026

- performance budgets, based on evolving information from instrument, satellite and ground segment design, development and test activities, and cross-checking the budgets against applicable system requirements;
- Support the definition of processing algorithms and specifications to achieve mission requirements;
- Support the definition of plans and of associated requirements for calibration, commissioning and validation of Level 1 and Level 2 products.
- Follow up and contribute to the integration and verification of processing chains deployed in the ground segment, to the validation of processing algorithms, and of generated products;
- Follow up the development and generation of necessary scientific test data to ensure that they are suitable and sufficient to demonstrate the functional chains end-to-end performances;
- Participate in all necessary in-orbit commissioning activities to demonstrate that the end-to-end instrument functional chain requirements are met;
- Support all system reviews for instrument functional chain aspects.

Skills and Experience

- Proven experience in the field of system engineering of satellite-based Earth observation systems;
- Direct involvement in the development and test of satellite payloads and/or the related on-ground processing chains;
- Good overall knowledge of instruments, the platform environment, processing algorithms, and the ground segment environment, to the extent relevant for end-to-end instrument chains;
- Demonstrated ability to perform top-down allocations of end-to-end instrument functional chain performances for a system (combined space and ground segment) from upper-level requirements, and to produce bottom-up end-to-end performance budgets, based on system elements design and tested characteristics;
- Proven experience in integration and verification of processing chains in ground segments;
- Experience in working with and coordinating diverse specialists to achieve end-to-end performances;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and experience in working in a multi-disciplined team.

Employment Conditions

The interview day is scheduled for 17 August 2026.

The initial contract will be of 4 years' duration, with subsequent 5 year contracts being awarded thereafter, subject to individual performance and organisation requirements. There is no limit to the amount of follow-up contracts a staff member can receive up to the EUMETSAT retirement age of 63 and there are certainly opportunities to establish a long career perspective at EUMETSAT.

This post is graded A2/A4 on the EUMETSAT salary scales. The minimum basic salary for this post is EURO 7,553 per month (net of internal tax but excluding pension contribution and insurances) which may be negotiable on the basis of skills and experience. The salary scale provides for increments on the anniversary of taking up employment, and scales are reviewed by the EUMETSAT Council with effect from 1 January each year. In addition to basic salary, EUMETSAT offers attractive benefits. Further information, including salary details, is available on the EUMETSAT web site.

EUMETSAT is committed to providing an equal opportunities work environment for men and women.

Please note that only nationals of EUMETSAT Member States may apply. The EUMETSAT Convention requires that Staff shall be recruited on the basis of their qualifications, account being taken of the international character of EUMETSAT.

About EUMETSAT

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EUMETSAT also operates several Copernicus missions on behalf of the European Union and provide data services to the Copernicus marine and atmospheric services and their users.

As an intergovernmental European Organisation, EUMETSAT has 30 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.)

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