

UK Space Agency call for nominations for the position of Chair of the Science Programme Advisory Committee

The UK Space Agency is seeking a new Chair for the Science Programme Advisory Committee.

The position of Chair of the Science Programme Advisory Committee will become vacant on 01 July 2016. The new Chair will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee on 15 June 2016.

The UK Space Agency welcomes applications from the astronomy, space science and space exploration communities. Full position and person specifications are appended. The terms of reference for the committee can be found in annex 2.

Selection procedure

Applications will shortlisted in accordance with the criteria in the person and position specifications. Interviews of shortlisted applicants will be held with the Director Programmes and the Head of Space Science. Interviews will be held on 27 April 2016.

Applications should be a maximum of 2 pages in length and should include the following:

- the applicant's area(s) of science expertise and current activity
- appropriate qualities including academic/industrial background knowledge of relevant subject areas
- details of experience of serving on committees, particularly those related to the Research Councils or government
- justification of applicant's suitability for the position
- any possible conflicts of interest

Applications should include contact details together with details of current position and seniority.

Please send your application to rosemary.young@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk by 16:00 on 04 April 2016.

For further information please contact:

Secretary to SPAC:

Rosemary Young

01793 41 8080

rosemary.young@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk

Annex 1.

Space Programme Advisory Committee Chairperson – Position Specification

1. Chair meetings of the Space Programme Advisory Committee (SPAC), which generally has four one-day meetings per annum.
2. Ensure SPAC complies with its Terms of Reference.
3. Represent SPAC at other cross-community advisory committees. Attendance may also be requested at ad hoc UK Space Agency (UKSA) meetings.
4. If requested to do so by UKSA, attend the ESA Science Programme Committee (SPC) meetings as a UK advisor with strong scientific standing. The SPC has three two-day meetings per annum, but may call extraordinary and ad hoc meetings as required. The UK delegates (including the SPAC Chair) present the UKSA view on ESA programmatic issues in line with the briefing material.
5. The appointment will be for one year in the first instance, with the possibility of extension for up to a further two years.
6. The position is unpaid. Remuneration of travel and subsistence costs will be in accordance with BIS policy.
7. Advisory Committee Chairs (and all Committee members) are expected to adhere to the seven principles of public life
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

Advisory Committee Chairperson – Person Specification

Required strengths:

- Recognised expertise in astronomy, space science or space exploration
- Good standing within the academic community and the ability to represent it
- Previous relevant experience, ideally as Chairperson, of senior-level Committees, Boards or Advisory groups
- The ability to take a broad overview and to summarise a consensus of opinions
- The ability to employ diplomacy as required
- Familiarity with relevant ESA, EU and international programmes
- Awareness of issues within the European space programme, including awareness academic, policy and commercial interests.
- Willingness to adhere to the seven principles of public life, to agree to any confidentiality requests made by the UKSA, and to agree to represent the UKSA position (rather than personal views) at ESA meetings.
- Prepared to devote sufficient time to the role.

The UK Space Agency will seek the best members possible for its advisory bodies and also seeks to ensure that membership reflects the diversity within the relevant research communities and encourages equality with regard to gender, race and disability.

Annex 2

SPACE PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Committee will meet at least three times a year usually before each ESA Science Programme Committee meeting and will:
 - 1.1 brief the UK delegates on the ESA Science Programme Committee and subsidiary committees, taking due regard of the policies set by BIS, the UK Space Agency and the STFC science strategy;
 - 1.2 provide advice on the overall UK strategy for involvement in space science projects, taking account of issues relating to:
 - space science
 - technology
 - industry
 - Potential spin-off applications
 - Science and society opportunities
 - Education and skills
 - 1.3 provide advice on the ranking and relative priority of current and potential future space science projects as an input to both funding and review decisions conducted by or for the UK Space Agency, taking account of the factors listed above;
 - 1.4 provide advice on the promulgation of the opportunities and benefits arising from the space science programme to the broader industrial and academic community and to identify where possible, potential funding routes for spin-off applications;
 - 1.5 report through the Chair to the Chief Executive of the UK Space Agency.

Membership

2. The membership should include: all UK members of the subsidiary committees to ESA's SPC; representatives of the UK space industry (e.g. through UKSpace); representatives from other relevant UK Space Agency committees; and representatives of the appropriate UK Space Agency stakeholders. In particular, there shall be a representative nominated by STFC, normally a member of Science Board. Membership should be supplemented by experts on specific missions or fields as necessary for a particular meeting. Representatives of the UK Space Agency Executive shall be ex officio members; and those of STFC shall be in attendance.