



science and technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The DST strives toward introducing measures that put science and technology to work to make an impact on growth and development in a sustainable manner in areas that matter to all the people of South Africa.

This includes focused interventions, networking and acting as a catalyst for change in terms of both productive components of our economy, making it competitive in a globally competitive liberalised environment, and also in respect of the huge development backlog existing among the poorest components of our society. The goal of realising this vision is underpinned by development and resourcing strategies for the formation of science, engineering and technology, human capital, democratisation of state and society, promotion of an information society and ensuring environmental sustainability in development programmes.

APPLICATIONS: The Department of Science and Technology is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and it is the intention to promote representativity in the Public Service through the filling of the following post. It is the responsibility of applicants with foreign qualifications to have such verified by SAQA.

Applications must be submitted on a Z83 form, obtainable from any Public Service department, and should be accompanied by a comprehensive CV (including three contactable referees) . Confirmation of final appointment will be subject to a positive security clearance and vetting of qualifications. Due to the high volume of responses anticipated, correspondence will be limited to short listed candidates only. On assumption of duty, the incumbent will have to enter into a performance agreement and sign declaration forms. All application should be addressed to The Chief Director: Human Resource and posted to Department of Science and Technology, Private Bag x894; PRETORIA; 0001 or hand delivered to CSIR Campus; DST Building 52 at the reception area or email: recruit.prog2@dst.gov.za

Post	:	Secondment at the GEO Secretariat
Duty station	:	Geneva, Switzerland.
Salary	:	As per secondment agreement including foreign service allowances
Commencement of duty	:	01 March 2013
Nature of appointment	:	Fixed-term - 3 years
Closing date	:	15 February 2013

About GEO:

The Group on Earth Observations is coordinating efforts worldwide to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, or GEOSS. GEO was established in 2005 in response to calls for action by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and by the G8 (Group of Eight) leading industrialised countries, recognising that international collaboration is essential for exploiting the growing potential of Earth observations to support decision making. GEO is a voluntary partnership providing a framework for partners to coordinate strategies and developments. As of September 2012, GEO includes 89 Members - 88 Governments and the European Commission – and 67 Participating Organisations. GEO is building GEOSS on the basis of a 10-Year Implementation Plan, 2005-2015. The Plan defines GEOSS vision and purpose as well as the expected benefits in each of the nine “Societal Benefit Areas” that will be served by GEOSS data and information: disasters, health, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems, agriculture and biodiversity.

Requirements:

Educational Qualifications:

University degree in the natural, social, or applied sciences, preferably an M.Sc. degree from a recognised university. The applicant should have the necessary scientific basis and broad understanding relevant to the large number of fields required to address the nine societal benefit areas described in the GEOSS 10 Year Implementation Plan.

Experience:

Long and wide-ranging experience in Earth observation and geospatial sciences or related disciplines. Good organising, coordinating and implementation of local and regional observational programmes and/or operational systems. A good knowledge of the various elements of Earth and life sciences and information technology is indispensable. Equally a good understanding of earth observations in Africa would be essential. The applicant should be familiar with current global developments in observing and information systems.

Furthermore, it is desirable that the applicant should have occupied a position and acquired adequate experience in international and intergovernmental activities, as may be gained in working with relevant international organizations. The applicant should be capable of communicating the importance of GEO and GEOSS at the highest international political and national leadership levels, as well as to the public in general. The applicant should also be capable of serving as a persuasive and engaging proponent of the need for GEO and AfriGEOSS for Africa's development and building a sustainable world for the future.

Other requirements:

Maturity of judgment, initiative, originality of ideas, ability to engage and integrate institutions in an international, multi-cultural environment, ability to plan, organize and direct collaborative efforts involving observing and information system design and operation at a high level are essential.

Languages:

Excellent knowledge of English is mandatory, and other working and/or official languages of international organisations would be an added benefit.

Duties and Responsibilities

The incumbent will be responsible for:

Facilitating and preparing cross-cutting activities; and actively participate in developing a coordination mechanism to reinforce synergies among national and/ or regional Earth observation planning efforts in Africa, and globally, through the implementation of the AfriGEOSS initiative; resource mobilization and, developing a communication plan for the AfriGEOSS initiative; The provision of annual reports on the progress and performance of AfriGEOSS, including milestones of the Plan on engaging Member States, Participating Organisations and regional institutions in facilitating and coordinating Earth observation activities in Africa, through coordinated priority SBAs projects on water, energy and agriculture, coordinated infrastructure projects, and promotion of data sharing and data democracy; Engaging with existing coordinating mechanisms, programmes and associations such as Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), African Association of Remote Sensing for the Environment(AARSE), AfricaGIS to align and harmonise their efforts in the context of GEO and AfriGEOSS; Organising, preparing, and supporting meetings and other work of the GEO Plenary, Executive Committee, Implementation Boards and Working Groups; and Carrying out additional duties as required by GEO and the Secretariat Director.

Enquiries: Mr J v Rensburg, tel: 012 843 6701

