

International Relations Manager

Job Location

Cheshire, UK (Head Office)

Area / Department

Business Support

Contract Type

Permanent

Salary

GBP 60,000 to 65,000 + excellent benefits. Increased salary range available for candidates who exceed criteria throughout the application and assessment process.

Closing Date

08/01/2024

Ref No

10269

At the SKAO we are coordinating a global effort to deliver one of the largest science facilities on the planet. The SKAO telescopes will be next-generation instruments that will help to answer key questions in astrophysics, drive technological innovation and support human capital development.

More than a dozen partner countries and over a thousand scientists and engineers around the world are already on board, making the SKA project an international collaboration like no other, and one of the most ambitious science and engineering endeavours of the 21st century.

Headquartered in the UK, with telescope sites in Australia and South Africa, the SKAO will be one observatory operating two telescopes, an endeavour spanning three continents. Multinational by design, in early 2021 the SKAO became an intergovernmental organisation, one of only a select handful of science infrastructures to do so worldwide.

Our Global HQ is located near the buzzing city of Manchester at the historic Jodrell Bank Observatory, a UNESCO World Heritage site located in the Cheshire countryside. It is home to a rapidly expanding international team of more than a hundred, working in a highly collaborative and inclusive way, in coordination with SKAO teams in Australia and South Africa as part of a global astronomy and engineering community.

Being part of Team SKA means contributing to something extraordinary: a uniquely exciting project to advance human knowledge that will last for decades. In return, we offer a diverse multicultural working environment, 30 days annual leave plus public holidays, a generous pension scheme, visa and support with relocation (if applicable), regular social events, a family-friendly environment and much more. Come and join us!

A unique opportunity for an experienced professional with excellent diplomatic skills, credibility, and strategic and tactical thinking to join an international team and support the delivery of the world's largest observatory dedicated to radio astronomy.

The Role

The International Relations Manager will play an important part in the Director General's Office and the business of the Observatory, contributing to the various international relations activities, ensuring that the SKAO effectively maintains and develops excellent relationships with its stakeholders, i.e. Member States' governments, international organisations, partner organisations, groups and individuals in order to support delivery of its mission.

Reporting to the Head of International Relations, the International Relations Manager will be part of a small team and, as a high-profile, externally visible, first point of contact for the SKAO in many areas, will interact regularly with members of the DG's Office, the Executive Leadership Team, senior members of the SKAO Council and other stakeholders.

The ideal candidate will be an experienced professional with a broad skillset including highly developed diplomatic skills, excellent judgement and communication ability, the wherewithal to think both strategically and tactically at the interface between political, policy and programmatic issues. Developing and then maintaining external and institutional relationships on a multinational level will be a core strength of the candidate we are looking for.

This role will be based at the SKAO Global Headquarters at the iconic Jodrell Bank Observatory, Cheshire, UK, and will require regular international travel.

SKAO is committed to providing an inclusive and flexible working environment, meeting the requests of our Colleagues whilst also fulfilling the needs and objectives of the Observatory.

We encourage applications from under-represented groups such as women and individuals with disabilities, as well as open conversations during the recruitment process in relation to any specific requirements.

There may be occasions where this role requires the post holder to work across different time zones and, in line with SKAO policy, flexible working hours will be supported in agreement with the line manager.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities and Duties

- Take proactive responsibility for maintaining effective and productive interactions with various international stakeholders and at multi-national platforms in particular.
- Support activities around the ongoing sustainability and growth of the SKAO's Membership, through strategic negotiations and interactions at all required levels as required by Council and the Director General through delegated authority.
- Work with other members of the team and beyond (including with the SKAO Programmes team) on relevant international, policy and membership matters as required by the Executive Leadership Team, the Council and its stakeholders.
- Represent the SKAO in external, international and multi-national forums, acting as an advocate for the Observatory, its Members and its activities.
- Support the Council as required on all relevant aspects of its work programme.
- Work within the International Relations team and support the extensive and varied portfolio of work of the Director General's Office, and in particular the work of the Strategy, Secretariat and Communications teams where interactions take place with the SKAO's stakeholders.
- Produce various documents as required.
- Travel internationally on a regular basis or as required.
- Undertake any other duties within your capabilities as may be reasonably required.

Mandatory Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Experience of operating within an international governmental landscape.
- Ability to translate arising issues into considerations regarding the wider political, governmental and international context, and make informed judgment.
- Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to convey and present complex and potentially sensitive information to a variety of audiences.
- Ability to build and maintain successful working relationships with stakeholders at all seniority levels.
- Confidence and assurance to act as an ambassador for the organisation and its interests in an international environment.
- Ability to work with high levels of ambiguity in a reactive and responsive manner.
- Good organisational and time management skills.
- Be a flexible and resilient team player who is adaptable to change.
- Ability and willingness to travel internationally as required.

Desirable Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Experience of operating within an international research and scientific landscape.
- Prior experience working within an Intergovernmental or International organisation.
- Experience working within international relations or a closely associated field.
- Exposure to a multi-international environment, preferably at a global (i.e. UN or one of its bodies) or regional (i.e. European Union) level.
- Ability to absorb a wide range of information, including on policy and technical topics, from a variety of sources.
- Academic degree in International Relations or a closely related field.
- Networking and negotiating capability.
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Knowledge of commonly-used IT systems such as MS Office, Confluence, Google Docs etc.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement

SKA Observatory recognises that our diversity is a strength. We aim to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels they belong, and diverse perspectives and ideas thrive. As such, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion are at the core of SKA Observatory's agenda.

Our aim is to recruit and retain the most talented individuals, regardless of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, nationality or background.

Women have traditionally been under-represented in the fields of science and engineering; SKA Observatory welcomes and encourages female applicants.

Where applicants with a disability need facilities or adjustments to enable them to participate in the recruitment process, these will be provided.

SKA Observatory welcome all candidates, especially those from member countries.

The "How to Apply" information contained within the SKA Observatory recruitment portal provides more detail regarding our application and selection approach.

Product Engineer

Job Location

Perth, Australia

Area / Department

Engineering

Contract Type

Fixed Term Contract

Salary

AUD 150,000 - 180,000 depending on experience, with excellent benefits

Closing Date

10/01/2024

Ref No

10274

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Construction activities for the SKAO's telescopes in Australia and South Africa started in 2021, along with a ramping up of SKAO staff in both countries. It is expected that the transition from the Construction Phase to the Operations Phase will happen around 2028.

SKAO Operations in South Africa will be conducted in partnership with the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO). SKAO Operations in Australia will be conducted in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The Observatory will also partner closely with a global network of SKA Regional Centres through which astronomers will access science data products and a suite of tools and resources to further analyse the SKA telescopes' data.

For more information on the SKA project visit <https://www.skao.int/>

The SKA Observatory offers a competitive salary and a generous pension and benefits package. As an employee of an intergovernmental organisation, an appointee who is not a national of the country in which the role is based may be subject to personal Privileges and Immunities.

A unique opportunity for a Product Engineer with experience in electronics engineering, large scale production, integration and verification of complex RF electronic circuitry and components, to support the delivery of a ground-breaking scientific facility.

The Role

The Product Engineer will join a dedicated Product Delivery Team (PDT) focused on the delivery of the Field Node for the SKA-Low Telescope. The Product Engineer will act as design authority, working alongside the Project Manager, the AIV team and Contractors towards the delivery of a Field Node system and subsystems compliant with SKAO requirements and standards.

This role will be known internally as Field Node Engineer and will report to the Domain Specialist Team Lead.

This role will be based at the SKAO's office in Perth, Western Australia, and will require regular travel and interaction with colleagues in the UK.

SKAO is committed to providing a flexible working environment with this role being offered on a full-time, part-time or job share basis. We encourage open conversations during the interview and application process in relation to any specific requirements.

There may be occasions where this role requires the post holder to work across different time zones and, in line with SKAO policy, flexible working hours will be supported in agreement with the line manager.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities and Duties

- Act as Design Authority for the Field Node which includes the Low Telescope Antenna and the Power and Signal Distribution (PaSD) subsystems.
- Provide technical leadership in the area of product engineering, working in collaboration with all engineering (including operations and quality assurance), scientific and programme disciplines across the SKAO and providing technical guidance and advice on all phases of the product lifecycle.
- Manage contractors and suppliers in collaboration with the project managers towards the delivery of technically compliant products and meeting safety, quality and efficiency standards. Responsibilities are, but not limited to:
 - Review and recommend changes to product design to ensure compliance with requirements, ICDs and standards.
 - Conduct technical reviews and identify process and product improvements.

- Represent the SKAO Engineering Office in subsystem integration and verification over the lifecycle of the product (including industrialisation and production phase).
 - Work closely with the contractors on all aspects of the production process.
 - Work closely with the AIV team at the SKAO Integration and Test Facility in Geraldton.
- Support the SKA-Low Telescope Domain Specialist in performance analysis of the SKA-Low Telescope.
 - Travel nationally on a regular basis to Geraldton and internationally as required (typically 1-2 times per year).
 - Undertake any other reasonable duties as directed by the Line Manager, the Head of Engineering or the Senior Management Team.

Mandatory Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Degree in Electronic or Telecommunication Engineering or another closely related and relevant field, or equivalent experience.
- Significant experience in design, integration and verification of complex RF electronic circuitry and components:
 - Comfortable with manipulating schematics and defining/reviewing required layout and models.
 - Experience in modelling or circuitry simulations.
- Experience in high-volume production and design for large-scale manufacturing.
- Strong understanding of quality, cost and schedule impacts.
- Experience in procurement and suppliers/contracts management.
- Familiarity with major quality reviews, as well as qualification and acceptance procedures and reporting.
- Familiarity with system engineering principles for deriving and verifying requirements, and maintaining interfaces.
- Influencing skills to ensure delivery of joined up solutions, working effectively with engineers and scientists in a multi-cultural environment.
- Be a flexible team player who is adaptable to change.
- Ability and willingness to travel nationally and internationally as required.

Desirable Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Knowledge of NEC forms of contract.
- Experience of on-site deployment of product.
- Familiarity with Australian standards for electronics.
- Familiarity with telescopes based on radio interferometry.

- Membership of recognised national or international engineering institutes.

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