

ALMA Vacancy Notice

The Joint ALMA Observatory (JAO) is seeking two

System Engineers

to join the team in Chile in support of the construction, commissioning and operational phases of the project.

Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the Lead System Engineer, the selected candidates will work as part of the system engineering team that is responsible for the following tasks:

- Participate in equipment acceptance in Chile and/or at the supplier's site.
- Plan the system requirement verification and work on the verification procedures.
- Maintain the ALMA system sensitivity and other budgets and allocations.
- Review test results and populate the available budget with test data.
- Use the budget to forecast system performance and trade off requirements.
- Contribute to configuration management and change-control processes and ensure that delivered equipment complies with ALMA requirements.
- Maintain and update the ALMA System Block Diagrams.
- Keep track of reliability and availability budgets for ALMA configuration.
- Publish and maintain project standards.
- Organize and participate in product reviews.
- Support product assurance activities.

Professional Requirements/Qualifications

A university degree in engineering in the fields of electronics, technical physics or other relevant fields, as well as at least five years of working experience in a similar system engineering position on multidisciplinary, high technology, and complex electronics projects are required.

The ideal candidates will have experience in all of the following areas:

- Establishing Assembly and Verification Plans;
- Elaborating specifications and reviewing subsystem specifications;
- Defining and maintaining interfaces among sub-systems in all disciplines;
- Developing and maintaining system budgets for performance requirements;
- Configuration management;
- Product assurance and quality management;
- Working in remote areas under tight schedules in international teams.

Knowledge or experience in several of the following areas is preferred:

- Radio telescopes;
- RF, microwave or millimeter wave systems;
- Photonics;
- High-speed digital electronics;
- Thermal and cryogenic engineering;
- Mechanical engineering;
- Civil engineering.

A successful high altitude medical check is a necessary condition for this position.

Duty Station: The position will be based in Santiago, Chile. However, it will require frequent travel to the ALMA sites at the OSF (2900 m. elevation) and occasionally at the Array Operations Site (5000m elevation) near San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.

Starting Date: as soon as possible.

Contract: Appointments will be for a period of three years. Since they are funded from the construction project, which will be largely completed by the end of 2012, substantial extension beyond the three year period will not be possible. However, members of the commissioning team will be in a strong position to compete for posts in Joint ALMA Observatory Science Operations which will become available during and after the construction phase.

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Remuneration: ALMA international staff will be recruited as employees of either ESO or AUI/NRAO. ESO and AUI/NRAO offer attractive remuneration packages including a competitive salary, comprehensive social benefits, and provide financial support in relocating families. Furthermore, an expatriation allowance as well as some other allowances may be added.

Applications with a cover letter specifying the position of interest should be sent to the Personnel Office, at either of the following addresses: NRAO, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville VA 22903, USA or ESO, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, Garching, D-85748 Germany.

Applicants submitting their application for these positions may submit their application/curriculum vitae and three letters of reference to NRAO at resumes@nrao.edu or apply to ESO online at <https://jobs.eso.org/>. ESO also requires three letters of reference which shall be sent to vacancy@eso.org.

Review of applications will begin on 30 March 2009; however applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The NRAO/ESO are equal opportunity employers. The post is equally open to suitably qualified male and female applicants.