

Job Description for Professional Posts

Reference:NA2025/29

Position and Grade:	Associate Research Scientist (Stable isotopes for Climate Change), P2
Organizational Unit:	Terrestrial Environment Laboratory (TEL) Radiochemistry and Radiation Technology Section Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences
Duty Station:	Seibersdorf, Austria
Type/Duration of Appointment:	FT – JPO, 1 year

Organizational Setting

The Terrestrial Environmental Radiochemistry (TERC) Laboratory assists IAEA Member States in enhancing the quality of their analytical measurements of radionuclides, trace elements and stable isotope ratios for monitoring and assessment of environmental pollution and climate change. This is accomplished by provision of reference products, such as matrix reference materials, validated procedures, proficiency tests, and guidelines for environmental protection, and through coordination of laboratory networks and training activities. Contributing to the IAEA Technical Cooperation programme, TERC supports the Member States in their development and capacity building by improving preparedness for emergency situations, analytical quality in Member States laboratories and providing training.

TERC is the producer of international scale-defining stable isotope reference materials, used to calibrate measurements worldwide for the element hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur.

Main Purpose

Under the supervision of the Laboratory Head, the Associate Research Scientist (Stable Isotope for Climate Change) carries out research to support stable isotope Member States laboratories with improving capacities in stable isotope analysis for determining of the origins of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The incumbent will conduct experimental work to contribute to the improvement of the existing isotopic methods and will participate in characterisation of stable isotope reference materials to improve the analytical quality in Member State laboratories for greenhouse gasses analysis.

Role

As part of a team reporting to the Laboratory Head, the Associate Research Scientist (Stable Isotope) is:

- (i) a technical specialist assisting in the development and implementation of stable isotope ratio analysis using Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry and Laser Isotope Analysers
- (ii) an analyst assisting in processing and analysing data, and
- (iii) a communicator assisting in training and in presenting results through technical reports and scientific publications.

Partnerships

The Associate Research Scientist (Stable Isotope) builds and maintains working relationships with staff of the TERC engaged in isotopic analyses and with similar relevant staff of other laboratories of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications. He/she also develops and builds networks with scientists and technical staff from Member State laboratories to exchange information on the development and the applications of stable isotope ratio analysis of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

Functions / Key Results Expected

- Participate in the development of stable isotope ratio measurement method(s) for the analysis of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.
- Perform stable isotope ratio analyses using Isotope Ratio mass Spectrometry and Laser Spectroscopy and contribute to the maintenance of equipment used for stable isotope ratio analysis.
- Participate to the characterisation of greenhouse gasses reference materials and other related products.
- Participate in the analysis and evaluation of experimental data and in inferring conclusions for the preparation of technical reports and scientific manuscripts for publication.
- Provide instructions and training of use of the equipment to fellows and training course participants.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Competencies and Expertise (do not revise or edit)

Core Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Communication	Individual Contributor	Communicates orally and in writing in a clear, concise and impartial manner. Takes time to listen and understand the perspective of others and proposes solutions.
Achieving Results	Individual Contributor	Takes initiative in defining realistic outputs and clarifying roles, responsibilities and expected results in the context of the Department/Division's programme. Evaluates his/her results realistically, drawing conclusions from lessons learned.
Teamwork	Individual Contributor	Actively contributes to achieving team results. Supports team decisions.
Planning and Organizing	Individual Contributor	Plans and organizes his/her own work in support of achieving the team or Section's priorities. Takes into account potential changes and proposes contingency plans.

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Functional Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Knowledge sharing and learning	Associate	Actively seeks opportunities to learn by formal and informal means; learns from others, adopting and sharing best practice.
Judgement / decision making	Associate	Consults with supervisor/manager and makes decisions in full compliance with the Agency's regulations and rules.

Expertise	
Expertise	Description
Analytical Chemistry / Physics /	Knowledge in analytical chemistry, particularly in Mass Spectrometry
Stable Isotope Ratio techniques	Basic knowledge in stable isotope ratio techniques and application

Education, Experience and Language Skills

- University degree in chemistry, physics or similar.
- Minimum of two-years of experience with analytical instruments, particularly with Stable Ratio Mass Spectrometry, or at least Mass Spectrometry.
- Excellent oral and written command of English. Knowledge of other official IAEA languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) is an asset.

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