



UK Geo-Energy Observatories (UK GEOS) Science Lead

Based in Keyworth, near to Nottingham; £56,722 - £70,000 p.a. (depending on experience and inclusive of relevant allowances)

Fixed Term appointment ending on 31st March 2020

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is the UK's leading funder of environmental science. NERC invests £330m each year in cutting edge research, postgraduate training and innovation. The British Geological Survey (BGS) is one of NERC's Research Centres and is a world leading, forward thinking geological science institute with a focus on both public good science for government and geoscientific research to understand earth and environmental processes.

From April 2018, BGS, a component part of the Natural Environment Research Council, will be part of UK Research and Innovation. UK Research and Innovation will bring together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England. The vision for the new organisation is to be the best research and innovation organisation in the world. More information can be found online at <http://www.ukri.org>. From April 2018, you will be employed by UK Research and Innovation.

The UK GEOS project, commissioned by NERC, follows the Government's 2014 announcement that it would allocate £31 million to create world-class, subsurface energy-research test centres to develop home grown energy supplies in the UK and create world-class subsurface research expertise in the UK. This investment is expected to place the UK at the forefront of a multi-billion pound market globally and provide independent evidence for better regulation and public confidence in this area.

NERC is now seeking an experienced Science Lead to develop the science of UK GEOS and other energy test beds across the BGS. The UK GEOS project is investing in the research infrastructure that will facilitate the development of world-leading knowledge applicable to a wide range of energy technologies including shale gas, geothermal and carbon capture and storage. It is developing two subsurface research centres that will be run by BGS. These will be world-leading facilities for research, technology and monitoring of the subsurface which will provide openly available data for academia, industry and regulators. The first research field site in the Thornton area (Cheshire) is focussing on the deeper subsurface, including shale gas and carbon capture and storage (CCS). The second research field site will be in Scotland and will focus on geothermal energy.

NERC has established a Project Board which, among other things, is developing a full science case and a stakeholder engagement plan. As part of that process, NERC and BGS have appointed a project manager, and are now looking for a Science Lead to develop the science of UK GEOS and other subsurface energy test beds across BGS. Reporting to the BGS Director of Science and Technology, Professor Mike Stephenson, the postholder will develop scientific engagement with the UKGEOS infrastructure and lead and inspire BGS scientists to develop a substantial scientific programme for UKGEOS. You will integrate UKGEOS with academic and industrial partnerships in the UK and internationally and play a key leadership role in the joint BGS / University of Nottingham Geoenergy Research Centre.



Person specification

The UK GEOS Science Lead will be an internationally recognised scientific leader, with a substantial peer reviewed scientific output, including publications based in underground test or borehole array facilities. In addition, as a senior member of the UK GEOS team, it is expected that the appointee will be able to demonstrate the following relevant experience, abilities, attributes, and skills:

- a successful track record of science leadership at a senior level;
- experience in designing and implementing scientific experiments and tests in sub-surface geological infrastructure, mainly in borehole arrays;
- experience of managing and leading a substantial team of scientists associated with a test or experimental facility;
- ability to convene and chair a Management Committee to oversee the facilities;
- evidence of prior leadership of complex, multi-disciplinary research projects;
- a willingness to act as the public face of the BGS;
- a commitment to providing inspiring leadership in collaborative pure and applied research;
- the ability to articulate to other members of the Centre, and externally, a compelling vision of the powerful contribution that its work can make in some of the world's key research challenges;
- exceptional team-working, communication, interpersonal and management skills.

Appointment process

The appointment of the Science Lead for UK GEOS will be determined by an appointment process chaired by the BGS Director of Science and Technology, Professor Mike Stephenson.

Applications are managed by the RCUK Shared Services Centre; applications should consist of a full CV detailing academic and professional qualifications, full employment history, latest remuneration and relevant achievements. This should be accompanied by a covering letter describing briefly how candidates meet the criteria in the Person Specification, why the appointment is of interest to them and what they believe they can bring to the role. To apply, please visit our job board at http://www.topcareer.jobs/Vacancy/irc244494_7990.aspx Applicants who would like to receive this advert in an alternative format (e.g. large print, Braille, audio or hard copy), or who are unable to apply online should contact us by telephone on 01793 867003, Please quote reference number IRC244494.

Closing date for receipt of application forms is 1 April 2018. Interviews will be held at BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham on Wednesday 18th April 2018.

The Natural Environment Research Council is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. People with disabilities and those from ethnic minorities are currently under-represented and their applications are particularly welcome. The British Geological Survey is an *Investors in People* organization and has achieved Bronze status for Athena Swan – a scheme that recognizes excellence in women's employment in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) in UK higher education. There is a guaranteed Interview Scheme for suitable candidates with disabilities.



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