

The Royal Observatory of Belgium seeks a collaborator (F/M/X) for the Time and Frequency service

Our reference	Activity group	Recruitment grade	Apply by
Job_Offer_ROB_Time_202607_eing	II. Public-sector scientific service	SW2	31/10/2026

Job description

The Time and Frequency service

One of the main tasks of the Time and Frequency Service is the maintenance of an atomic time scale, a local physical realization of UTC known as UTC(ORB). In order to ensure its accurate implementation and to provide it as a public service, thereby contributing to numerous Belgian and European projects, it is necessary to rely on an infrastructure that is both precise and robust, kept at the cutting edge of technology through appropriate technical means. The Time and Frequency Service also participates in a wide range of projects related to time metrology, both for terrestrial and space-based scientific applications.

More information on the Time and Frequency service can be found on the ROB website.

Job responsibilities

- Contribute to the operation of the Observatory's Time and Frequency laboratory by ensuring the maintenance and improvement of its infrastructure, in particular the electronic equipment dedicated to system control, signal acquisition, and time and frequency transfer.
- Improve the quality of GNSS stations and the UTC(ORB) signal generation chain
- Carry out research projects related to time and frequency transfer (via satellite or optical fiber) and future satellite systems for PNT and geodesy
- Contribute to advancing the state-of-the-art in these fields by publishing research results at scientific meetings and in international journals

Outcome area

This function supports the *ORB* Time and Frequency Service in its areas of activity, primarily through operations related to its scientific and technical infrastructure, as well as through its research activities.

Employer

There is one position open in the Time and Frequency service at the Royal Observatory of Belgium (address: Ringlaan 3, B1180 Brussels).

The activity group for the position is:

II. Public-sector scientific service

Time and Frequency service: *The successful candidate will work in the Time and Frequency Service of the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB). He or she will work closely with colleagues from the Time and Frequency service within Operational Directorate OD1.*

Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB): The ROB (<http://www.observatory.be>) is a Belgian Federal institute located in the green outskirts of Brussels (Uccle).

Skills

Behavioural skills

The candidate must be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

Information management: understanding, processing, analyzing and integrating information.

Task management: executing tasks, structuring work, solving problems and making decisions.

People Management: Share expertise and know-how, motivate colleagues.

Relationship Management: Communicate effectively, actively listen, work as part of a team, adopt a service-oriented approach, and build relationships and professional networks.

Personal functioning: adapting, being reliable, committing, managing stress, self-developing and achieving goals.

Technical skills

The candidate must be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- Strong electronics skills for equipment calibration and interfacing, component characterisation, and the development of measurement and test benches in the fields of time and frequency and geodesy (GNSS and VLBI)
- Advanced knowledge in signal processing applied to RF signals in the fields of time-frequency and geodesy (GNSS and/or VLBI)

- Advance knowledge of state-of-the art techniques for time and frequency transfer (GNSS, TWSTFT, White Rabbit)
- Proficiency in Python, Matlab, C++, Git
- Basic knowledge in VHDL or Verilog
- Basic knowledge in LabVIEW or similar tools

Assets

- Any experience with oscillators, PLLs, and precision synchronisation systems
- Any experience in synchronisation network protocols (NTP, PTP, White Rabbit, etc.)

Conditions for consideration

Your profile

As should be clear from your CV:

- You hold a PhD in Engineering
or
- You have recognized expertise in electronics and signal processing.
- You have demonstrated experience (at least 4 years) in time and frequency systems and in at least one geodetic technique (e.g., VLBI, GNSS, or DORIS)

Degree must have been conferred by the closing date for applications

- You hold a PhD in Engineering

Job offer

Contract and category

Recruitment will take place in category SW21.

You will be hired under a contract as an assistant on the SW21 salary scale.

You will be hired under a permanent contract on the SW2 salary scale.

Minimum pay: 70.391 euros (gross annual salary, at the current index, legal benefits not factored in).

For more details, see Article 4, page 18496 of the pdf at:

<https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/arrete/2008/02/25/2008021028/moniteur>

Benefits

We offer you an interesting job with a social impact, which comes with a number of benefits:

- A good work-life balance
 - flexible working hours of 38 per week
 - option of taking compensatory leave for overtime worked

offices closed between Christmas and New Year's Day

- 26 days of paid leave (for a year of full time employment)
 - easy commuting using public transport
- numerous opportunities for self-growth
 - numerous opportunities for training and apprenticeship (during working hours)
- Financial benefits
 - possibility of receiving a bilingualism bonus
 - hospitalisation insurance at reduced rate
 - supplementary pension (occupational pension)
 - free use of public transport for commuting between your home and the place of work
 - meal vouchers
 - possibility of receiving a bicycle allowance for travel via bicycle
 - Benefits and offers via the Benefits@Work card
 - a range of fringe benefits (subject to conditions)

Conditions for employment

If you are selected through this procedure, you must – in order to be hired – fulfil the following requirements on the date of selection:

- Enjoy full civil and political rights
- Have fulfilled military service requirements
- Behave in a manner fitting of the requirements of the position
- Hold the necessary degree(s)

Have the necessary skills and fulfil the requirements listed in the job profile

Procedure

Step 1 – Verification of the participation conditions

You will be considered in the selection procedure if you fulfil all of the required conditions. Verification will be carried out by the selection board on the basis of the application documents you have submitted. The board will decide whether the qualifications, awards and experiences you have submitted meet the requirements of the position. If they do, you will be invited to continue to the next step of the procedure.

Step 2 – Interview

The interview will take place online or at the **Royal Observatory of Belgium**. Further details will be sent to you by one of our employees via email.

The selection board assesses whether the qualifications, awards and experience you included in your application documents meet the requirements for the position.

If you fail to attend

If you fail to attend the additional evaluation and/or interview, you will be automatically excluded from the remainder of the selection procedure unless you provide evidence, within three days, that your absence was justified for one of the following reasons:

- illness
- emergency relating to a member of your household (= anyone who lives with the applicant) or family (= spouse or legal cohabitant of the applicant, parents or grandparents of the applicant)
- mandatory presence at your workplace
- disruption or delay to public transport of at least 30 minutes
- force majeure

If applicable, you may request, within 10 days of the interview date, to be interviewed by the board. A new date will then be offered to you.

Notification

If you are not selected in a step, the procedure will end, and you will not be invited to any subsequent evaluations in the same selection procedure.

For each step, you will receive a notification of the result.

Equal opportunities and reasonable accommodations

The Federal Administration has an active diversity policy.

Do you live with a disability, with learning difficulties or an illness? If so, you can request accommodations for the selection procedure. Please contact the individual listed under the "Contact persons" section.

Facilities provided for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding

Are you pregnant or breastfeeding your child? If so, you can request access to the relevant facilities. Please contact the individual listed under the "Contact persons" section.

Final result

What happens if you are selected?

Following the selection procedure, an unranked group of applicants will be placed on a short-list. These applicants will be those deemed most suitable to fill the open position in accordance with the conditions for consideration. The Director General of the institute will hire one person from this list.

How long will this list remain valid?

A shortlist of selected applicants will be created and will remain valid for one year

Apply

Do you want to apply? Send your application documents by email to Dr Pascale Defraigne (p.defraigne@oma.be) and dir-rob@oma.be including the selection reference in the subject line.

Your application documents must include:

- an updated CV
- a cover letter

The closing date for sending your application is 31/10/2026 (inclusive).

Applications that do not follow the indicated procedure will not be considered.

Contact persons

Concerning the position:

For more information about the position, please contact:

Dr Pascale Defraigne, head of the Time and Frequency service, 02 3730260, p.defraigne@oma.be

Concerning the selection procedure:

For more information about the selection procedure, please contact:

Dr Ronald Van der Linden, Director General, 02 373 0211, dir-rob@oma.be

If you want to request a reasonable accommodation for the selection procedure or access to facilities for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding, please also contact this person.