

# Call for Nominations for UK representative to the CEOS Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS)

## Purpose

The UK Joint GEO/CEOS Office is seeking to identify a UK candidate to the CEOS Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS), to work with the UK Earth observation community and the UK Space Agency to promote collaboration with CEOS members in the development of systems and services that manage and supply EO data.

The purpose of this document is to provide information on this opportunity, to articulate the expertise that is being sought to fulfil it and to seek nominations/expressions of interest from the EO community for UK candidates for the position.

## Requirement

The UK WGISS representative is primarily performing an international co-ordination, activity development, communication and reporting role for the UK, strengthening technical value for UK data systems and ensuring they fit with international developments in an advantageous manner.

The activity will involve attending two 4-day international meetings per year and telecons as needed to drive forward work on sub-group activities; regular, timely consultation with and reporting to the UK community via the EO data group and the UK Joint GEO/CEOS Office; to advise on international dimensions of UK data strategy and opportunities for UK data activities which are internationally consistent and leading; supporting the Office to involve further UK (voluntary) participants in relevant WGISS sub-groups; to advise the GEO/CEOS Principals and UK funders such as UKRI-NERC where further UK resources could be committed to maximise impact in data activities promoted by WGISS; promotion of end-user perspectives and needs; coordination with UK data providers to support UK inputs into CEOS LSI-VC, CEOS WGCapD and GEOGlam; attendance at relevant UK national meetings as required.

It is estimated that the role will require approximately 160 hours of dedicated work per annum, initially for a 3-year term which will be reviewed by the UK Joint GEO/CEOS Office on an annual basis. This would be complemented by the applicant's day job activities which would ideally be in an area of interest to WGISS.

The selected candidate will need to:

- Be already involved in projects that relate to EO data systems and services;
- have a broad sight of UK capability in this area;
- have broad experience relating to data access, discoverability, system interoperability, exploitation platforms, and new technologies;
- be comfortable with liaising with space agencies, and ideally with international organisations at a high level;
- be able to represent UK policy lines and be pro-active in promoting and creating opportunities for the whole UK EO data community;
- good communication and strategic thinking skills;
- be able (with the help of UKSA, the EODG and the UK GEO/CEOS office) to build a network of colleagues across the UK academic (including NERC), government and industrial sector who can contribute expertise and advise to the WGISS goals.

## Application

The UK Joint GEO/CEOS Office welcomes nominations, suggestions or expressions of interest from the EO community for potential UK candidates who can draw upon their expertise to effectively represent the UK on this group and drive forward its activities.

Ideally an expression of interest would consist of name and current position, a statement on why the applicant is interested in the current position and a statement of experience related to the requirements noted in the previous section. Nominations should cover similar ground if possible but the Office is keen to receive relevant suggestions.

The selected candidate will have agreed travel and subsistence costs reimbursed by the UK GEO/CEOS Office. It is expected that applicant's organisation should cover salary costs but the GEO/CEOS Office could provide limited budget funds. Applicants are asked to provide an hourly rate for their work and an indication of the fraction that could be covered by their organisation.

## Background

WGISS is a subsidiary body of the **Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), whose secretariat is at ESA**. It is chaired by Mirko Albani, with Vice-Chair Robert Woodcock (CSIRO). The UK data and analysis centre CEDA and other consultants have supported UKSA in its watching brief to WGISS for at least ten years. Recognising the strategic and practical nature of WGISS towards the UK EO data vision, the UK Space Agency is keen to ensure the UK expertise in all aspects of data management is showcased on a world stage and that the UK plays a full and active part in the group. They are keen to see UK representatives across the four WGISS interest groups:

- Connected Assets System Level team – for data discovery and access;
- Data Stewardship Interest Group;
- Interoperability Interest Group – includes FDA group, Carbon Portal and OpenSource SW and Tools;
- Technology Exploration Interest Group.

Further information on WGISS can be found on the group's [website](#).

The first international meeting the successful candidate will need to attend is [WGISS-47](#), in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, 29<sup>th</sup> April-2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. There may be sub groups and telcons that occur before this,

## Contact

Please forward all comments or expressions of interest to the [UK GEO/CEOS office](#) before close of play on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**.

Contact details:

Dr Sophie Hebden, UK Joint GEO/CEOS Office Manager

Tel: +44 (0)116 223 1948; Email: [sophie.hebden@nceo.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.hebden@nceo.ac.uk)