

Position Details

Technical Services – CSOF4

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR APPLICANTS

Advertised Job Title	Platform Engineer - SKA-Low Telescope
Job Reference	94056
Tenure	Indefinite Full-Time, Part-Time or Job-Share
Salary Range	AU\$89,680 to AU\$101,459 per annum, plus up to 15.4% superannuation
Location(s)	Perth, Western Australia
Relocation Assistance	Will be provided to the successful candidate if required
Applications are open to	All Candidates
Client Focus – Internal	0%
Client Focus – External	100%
Position reports to the	This role will report to the SKA-Low Site Reliability Engineering Manager
Number of Direct Reports	0
Enquire about this job	To enquire about this role, please reach out to the SKA-Low Site Reliability Engineering Manager, Louisa Quartermaine, on louisa.quartermaine@skao.int for more information
How to apply	Apply online at https://jobs.csiro.au/ Internal applicants please apply via Jobs Central If you experience difficulties when applying, please email careers.online@csiro.au or call 1300 984 220.

Acknowledgement of Country

CSIRO acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, sea and waters, of the areas that we live and work on across Australia. We acknowledge their continuing connection to their culture and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. View our [vision towards reconciliation](#).

The CSIRO Experience

As an employee of CSIRO, you will be eligible for the many benefits of working at Australia's National Science Agency. You can read more here:

1. [Life at CSIRO](#)
2. [Personal Development & Learning](#)
3. [Generous Leave & Conditions](#)
4. [Work / Life Balance](#)

Background

The SKA Observatory (SKAO) is a next-generation radio astronomy facility that will revolutionise our understanding of the Universe and the laws of fundamental physics. Enabled by cutting-edge technology, it promises to have a major impact on society, in science and beyond. As an intergovernmental organisation, the SKAO brings together nations from sixteen countries around the world.

The Observatory has an international footprint and consists of the SKAO Global Headquarters in the UK, the SKAO's two telescopes at radio-quiet sites in South Africa and Australia, and associated facilities to support the operations of the telescopes.

Constructing and operating these telescopes will position the SKAO as the leading research infrastructure for radio astronomy globally, providing science capabilities to the international astronomical community for decades to come.

Australia will host the SKAO's low frequency telescope (SKA-Low) in remote Western Australia on Wajarri Yamaji Country.

The Traditional Owners and native title holders, the Wajarri Yamaji, have gifted CSIRO with the traditional name Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara for the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory, home to the SKA-Low telescope. The traditional name means 'sharing sky and stars' in the Wajarri language.

In Australia, SKAO is collaborating with CSIRO to operate and support the construction of the SKA-Low Telescope. SKA-Low teams will operate out of:

- Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory on Wajarri Yamaji Country.
- Our Engineering Operations Centre on Nhanhangardi, Naaguja, Wilyny and Amangu Country in Geraldton.
- Our Science Operations Centre on Whadjuk Noongar Country in Perth.

Further Reading: [Explore SKAO](#)

Role Overview

The SKA-Low Computing and Software team delivers novel computing and technology solutions to meet the requirements of the SKA Project. The SKAO is driven by software and systems which include:

- An integrated control system that controls and monitors over 2 million process variables.
- Data processing systems that process the vast quantities of data produced by the SKA Low, which will require a high-performance supercomputer capable of more than 100 petaflops and will result in hundreds of Petabytes of data archived per year.
- Science management systems to manage the interaction with scientists from around the world and ensure the huge amounts of data are made available to the appropriate people in a timely manner.
- Networks that move the data at rates exceeding Tbits/second across hundreds of km within the telescope and then shipping it to the scientific community using a world-wide 100 Gbit network.

The SKA-Low Platform Engineer will be part of the new Site Reliability Engineering team. The role will be responsible for the deployment, configuration and support of a consistent, integrated and unified set of computing and software platforms and services for the SKA-Low telescope.

These include clusters installed at the Science Processing Centre at the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre in Perth, the Integration Test Facility (in Geraldton) and on site at Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, CSIRO's Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory.

This person will work alongside key stakeholders within the SKAO community such as Observatory Architects, Platform and DevOps Engineers, Network Engineers, Project Managers and other domain specialists. The successful candidate will ensure the technology platforms and services are fit for purpose, operationally secure, highly available, sustainable, and supportable providing the quality needed for a system that will have to last, and be continually developed, for decades. This role will report directly to the SKA-Low Site Reliability Engineering Manager.

Due to the locations involved in the SKA Project, in particular South Africa and the United Kingdom, this role may require some work outside of normal hours. It will also require domestic travel to Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory on Wajarri Yamaji Country, to our facilities in Geraldton, and occasionally internationally, specifically to the United Kingdom and South Africa.

CSIRO and the SKA Observatory value and respect difference, and we are committed to building an inclusive culture by creating an environment where you can balance a successful career with your commitments and interests outside of work. We believe that you will do your best at work if you have a work / life balance. We are open to discussing flexible working opportunities with this role being offered on a full-time, part-time or job share basis. Please raise your preference in your application.

Duties and Key Result Areas

- Assist in the deployment, configuration and support of a consistent, integrated and unified set of computing and software platforms and services for the SKA-Low telescope.
- Work with the SKAO SAFe® Platform and System teams to develop and maintain a globally consistent and integrated SRE response system.
- Actively contribute to the general design and implementation of the SKA-Low Technology platforms, feeding into and implementing the observatory wide platform design roadmap.
- Support and relentlessly improve the integration and delivery of high quality software products.
- Be responsible for preparing documentation and training materials for future platform installation work during ongoing operations, and documenting lessons learned.
- Communicate openly, effectively, and respectfully with all staff, clients and suppliers in the interests of good business practice, collaboration and enhancement of SKAO and CSIRO's reputation.
- Adhere to the spirit and practice of both SKAO and CSIRO's Values as well as the Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment procedures and policy, Diversity initiatives and Zero Harm goals.
- Other duties as directed.

Selection Criteria

CSIRO is an Equal Opportunity employer working hard to recruit world-class talent that represents the diversity across our society. As part of our commitment to equitable employment outcomes for under-represented groups, preference will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and/or women and/or people with a disability who meet the role criteria.

Essential

Under CSIRO policy only those who are able to demonstrate how they can meet the essential criteria may be appointed.

- A tertiary qualification in Computer Science, Software Engineering, or equivalent work experience.
- Experience in administering Linux application servers, compute hardware (incl. clusters), virtualisation and/or data centre infrastructure management.
- Demonstrated use of infrastructure provisioning tools (such as Helm, Ansible, Terraform or OpenStack) in on-premises, cloud or virtualised environments.
- Experience with scripting and/or programming languages such as Bash and/or Python.

Desirable

- Experience in developing, building, and administering distributed storage platforms such as Ceph.
- Experience with containerisation, orchestration, and automation platforms such as Kubernetes.
- Knowledge of TCP/IP Layer 2 and Layer 3 network layers and functions.
- Demonstrated understanding and enthusiasm for working based on lean/agile principles.

Required Competencies

- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Cooperates with others to achieve organisational objectives and may share team resources in order to do this. Collaborates with other teams as well as industry colleagues.
- **Influence and Communication:** Uses knowledge of other party's priorities and adapts presentations or discussions to appeal to the interests and level of the audience. Anticipates and prepares for others reactions.
- **Resource Management/Leadership:** Allocates activities, directs tasks and manages resources to meet objectives. Provides coaching and on the job training, recognises and supports staff achievements and fosters open communication in the team.
- **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Investigates underlying issues of complex and ill-defined problems and develops appropriate response by adapting/creating and testing alternative solutions.
- **Independence:** Recognises and makes immediate changes to improve performance (faster, better, lower cost, more efficiently, better quality, improved client satisfaction).
- **Adaptability:** Copes with ambiguity or situations that lack clarity. Adapts readily to changing circumstances and new responsibilities (which may include activities outside own preferences) in the interests of achieving team objectives. Recognises the need for and undertakes personal development as a result of changes.

Special Requirements

- The successful candidate will be required to gain a National Police Clearance or equivalent. This will be conducted by CSIRO, Talent Services, through our provider HireRight. Please note that individuals with criminal records are not automatically deemed ineligible. Each application will be considered on its merits.
- If the successful candidate is not an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident, they may be required to undergo additional security clearances, which may include medical examinations and an international standardised test of English language proficiency (i.e. IELTS test- [https://ielts.com. au/](https://ielts.com.au/)).

Child Safety

CSIRO is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our activities and programs. View our [Child Safe Policy](#).

CSIRO and SKAO Values

Visit [CSIRO Online](#) and [Space and Astronomy](#) and [SKAO online](#) and [SKAO Location](#) for more information. In your application and at interview you will need to demonstrate behaviours aligned to our values of:

CSIRO	SKA Observatory
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People First• Further Together• Making it Real• Trusted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diversity and Inclusion• Excellence• Collaboration• Creativity and Innovation• Sustainability and Safety