

Position Details

Technical Services – CSOF4

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR APPLICANTS

Advertised Job Title	HVAC Technician - SKA-Low Telescope
Job Reference	100071
Tenure	Indefinite - Full-time, Part-time or Job-share
Salary Range	CSOF4 - AU\$96,811 to AU\$109,527 per annum, plus 15.4% superannuation, plus all applicable allowances
Location(s)	Geraldton, Western Australia - FIFO or DIDO to Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory
Relocation Assistance	Will be provided to the successful candidate if required
Applications are open to	Australian/New Zealand Citizens and Australian Permanent Residents
Client Focus – Internal	0%
Client Focus – External	100%
Position reports to the	This position will report to the SKA-Low Logistics and Planning Manager
Number of Direct Reports	0
Enquire about this job	To enquire about this job please reach out to the SKA-Low Logistics and Planning Manager, Allan Wilkes, on allan.wilkes@csiro.au 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 is a next-generation radio astronomy facility set to transform our understanding of the Universe and fundamental physics. By deploying cutting-edge technology, it will have a lasting impact on science and society. With investment totalling almost A\$3.5bn, the scale and reach of the facility will be unsurpassed. The SKA Observatory is an Intergovernmental Organisation, supported on five continents and in both hemispheres under a unique partnership of sixteen nations. The SKA Observatory's facilities include its headquarters in the UK and radio-quiet sites in remote areas of South Africa and Australia, where the mid- and low-frequency telescopes are being built.

By constructing and operating these advanced telescopes, the SKA Observatory will become the world leader in radio astronomy, providing unparalleled research capabilities for decades.

In Australia, the SKA Observatory is collaborating with CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, to construct and operate the SKA-Low Telescope. SKA-Low teams are operating 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 CSIRO and the SKA-Low Telescope project](#)

Role Overview

The advanced data processing systems that will help us explore the furthest reaches of the universe rely on precisely controlled temperatures, even in the extreme conditions of the Australian outback. As a member of the SKA-Low Engineering Operations team, the HVAC Technician plays a vital role in enabling our science by ensuring the reliable operation of sophisticated cooling systems across the telescope site.

This critical position is responsible for the diagnostics, maintenance, repair, and upgrading of a range of high-performance HVAC systems, including water-cooled chillers, split systems, and specialised industrial air-conditioning and cooling infrastructure.

Working in a remote environment, this role is a mix hands-on technical expertise with oversight of contractors. The position operates on a FIFO (Fly-In Fly-Out) basis via charter flights, with occasional DIDO (Drive-In Drive-Out) options. The standard roster consists of 8 consecutive days on-site followed by 6 days off, supporting a sustainable and balanced work-life schedule.

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

Diagnostics

- Investigate and resolve system faults, alarms, and incidents swiftly, collaborating with internal teams and contractors to ensure minimal disruption.
- Provide expert technical guidance on fault diagnostics, system reliability, and performance improvement opportunities.
- Monitor the Building Management System (BMS), responding proactively to alarms to maintain operational continuity.

Maintenance

- Perform routine and corrective maintenance on site infrastructure to maximise system reliability and uptime.
- Maintain accurate records and schedules in the Computerised Maintenance and Management System (CMMS), ensuring alignment with asset configurations and operational standards.
- Supervise on-site contractors to ensure full compliance with safety protocols, induction processes, and regulatory requirements.

Repair

- Respond promptly to system failures and malfunctions, implementing effective corrective actions in coordination with stakeholders.
- Ensure all repair activities follow established safety procedures, technical standards, and documentation practices.
- Support the continuous improvement of the telescope systems by recommending and implementing reliability-focused repair strategies.

Upgrading

- Plan and execute system upgrades, installations, and modifications in accordance with engineering specifications and site standards.
- Drive continuous improvement by identifying and implementing process optimisations, automation opportunities, and waste-reduction initiatives.
- Procure equipment and services for maintenance and upgrade projects in line with SKAO procurement procedures.

Other Duties

- Adhere to the spirit and practice of SKAO's and CSIRO's Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment procedures and policy, and Diversity initiatives.
- Other relevant duties as required.

Selection Criteria

Essential

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

- **Recognised Trade Qualification:** Possess a current Australian Refrigeration Mechanic Trade qualification, demonstrating a solid foundation in mechanical and HVAC systems.
- **Licensing Requirements:** Hold a valid Arctick Refrigerant Handling Licence, and either a Restricted Electrical Licence or a full WA Electrical Licence, enabling safe and compliant electrical work associated with HVAC systems.

- **HVAC Experience:** Proven hands-on experience working with complex HVAC systems, particularly those involving water-chilled equipment racks, flow balancing, and precision cooling in critical environments.
- **High-Risk Work Licences:** Hold, or be willing to obtain within three months of commencement, High-Risk Work Licences for: Working at Heights, Confined Space Entry.
- **Teamwork and Independence:** Demonstrated capacity to work safely and productively within a small engineering team, showing initiative, self-motivation, and the ability to operate effectively with minimal supervision.
- **Communication and Documentation:** Strong written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to prepare clear documentation and effectively use standard software tools for correspondence, record-keeping, and updates.

Desirable

- **Remote Site Experience:** Previous experience working in remote locations demonstrating adaptability and resilience in isolated or challenging environments.
- **Software Proficiency:** Experience using industry-relevant software tools such as electrical diagnostic software, SCADA systems, SAP, Maximo, CITEC, PLC programming environments, or equivalent platforms.
- **Support for Complex Facilities:** Experience supporting high-reliability technical or scientific infrastructure such as data centres, laboratories, or research facilities.

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.

- The successful candidate will be required to undertake a pre-employment medical examination prior to commencement.

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