



Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC

Director of Science

Background Information

The Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) ERIC is the leading European science facility for physical sciences based on laser sources. As an international user facility, ELI has the broadest portfolio of scientific lasers in the world, from high-intensity to ultra-short pulse high repetition rate lasers. ELI's lasers produce pulses of high-energy photons which can drive the production of particles in the (sub-) atto-second regimes on demand.

In addition, ELI is the first ESFRI Landmark constructed in the Central Eastern European Member States. Two world-class high-power, high-repetition-rate laser facilities have been established in Dolní Břežany, Czech Republic (ELI Beamlines) and Szeged, Hungary (ELI-ALPS). A third ELI-related facility is under construction in Romania (ELI-NP).

The ELI laser sources enable a broad range of discovery possibilities from the theoretical and exotic disciplines to very practical material and engineering problems. The ELI multiple primary laser and secondary particle acceleration sources may be used for academic and industrial research and development across a range of scientific disciplines including structural biology, physics, chemistry, materials science, engineering, earth and environmental sciences.

The ELI ERIC is one of the most advanced scientific facilities in the world, and its pioneering capabilities and talented staff are helping to keep the European Research Area at the forefront of scientific research. The ELI Facilities are completing construction and commissioning and now entering a critical phase of joint operations. The ongoing integration of the management and user programme will provide unprecedented access for scientists to a very broad and diverse array of instruments based on laser sources.



About the Role

The ELI ERIC is offering an exceptional opportunity for a world-leading, innovative and recognised scientist to take up the role of Director of Science (DoS). Reporting to the Director General, the DoS will provide strategic leadership, direction, and management for ELI ERIC, as well as being a part of the ELI ERIC Management Board. The DoS will represent and serve as the leading scientific spokesperson for ELI ERIC.

The DoS will develop, coordinate and manage the integrated scientific user programme with the ELI Facilities. In consultation with the funding agencies, the ELI ERIC International Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC), and the user community, the DoS will define the scope and aims of the programme, as well as the process for the scientific evaluation of its performance according to agreed scientific and organisational indicators.

Key responsibilities and experience include:

- Develop a world-leading scientific user programme.
- Provide leadership and coordination for the scientific direction of the ELI ERIC Facilities and scientific teams in a unified research programme.
- Lead a career development programme for the scientific staff of the company.
- Plan, develop, and implement a long-term operational scientific programme in support of company objectives.
- Lead development of ELI-related projects for scientific facilities and instruments.
- Manage and develop direct reporting and other staff.
- Develop and manage organisational budgets.
- Prepare and contribute to regular operational reports and annual scientific reports for governance.

The work includes regular travel and will take place mainly at the laboratories in Dolní Břežany and Szeged. It may also include regular international travel to conferences and to stakeholders in member countries and potential member countries.

About the Candidate

The successful candidate can demonstrate a proven record of scientific achievement in the physical sciences at the European and international level, along with significant senior leadership experience from within a complex scientific environment.



The successful candidate can present significant knowledge of the European Research Area, the scientific community, with the ability to represent ELI externally, to Member Countries, various stakeholders, industry, and other bodies.

The successful candidate has demonstrated the ability to encourage collaboration, teamwork, and innovation, and the ability and scientific standing necessary to gain and retain the confidence of the ELI scientific and technical staff across a range of subject areas and of scientific and managerial issues. Specialized knowledge in laser science is appreciated, but not a requirement.

The successful candidate will demonstrate experience in:

- Developing scientific strategies for a national or international organisation.
- Leading and line-managing in a major scientific organisation with the vision required to advance scientific planning and development of broad research.
- Facilitating user research and beamline development.
- Working with European and national funding agencies to prioritize research programmes.
- Delivering to deadlines and within funding constraints.

The successful candidate will display exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, including the confidence and ability to engage with diverse stakeholders in academia, industry, and government. Experience living and working in a diverse, international context is considered essential.

Candidates should send a letter of interest, including a concise description of experience relevant to the position, as well as their CV and at least two reference letters to michaela.kacrova@eli-laser.eu.

Application deadline is 28 February 2025. The selection committee will begin evaluating qualified candidates from March 2025. Position is open until filled.

All enquiries/information from the candidates will be handled confidentially.