

Job description

Post title and post number	Technician (Particle Physics Group) - 52060
Organisation advertising Description	School of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences
Post number	52060
Full-time/Part-time	Full-time
Duration of post	2 years
Post is open to:	Internal and External Candidates
Salary	Starting salary is normally in the range £21,666 to £23,276. With potential progression once in post to £26,946 a year. New staff are eligible to join the University's new defined contribution pension scheme. Existing staff may continue to receive their current benefits
Additional information	Informal enquiries concerning this post can be made to Prof Paul Newman, prn@hep.ph.bham.ac.uk
Terms and conditions	Support Staff
Closing date	25 February 2016

Job summary

To provide technical support to all aspects of the particle physics group's research, primarily in constructing, testing and installing apparatus for experiments at the CERN laboratory, Geneva.

Main duties

- To be part of a two person technical team that will provide high level technical support for all aspects of the particle physics group's experiments and outreach activities. This will involve using judgement to break down tasks and devise solutions in the preparation of equipment and following procedures to diagnose faults. Regular contact will be required with senior academic and research staff in the Birmingham group and possibly also at other academic institutes, as well as occasional consultations with external suppliers to devise methods for construction tasks and to diagnose and solve faults with complex equipment.

The role may also include responsibility for ensuring that health and safety procedures are followed and making risk assessments.

- The main scientific activities associated with this post are as follows.
 - **ATLAS tracker upgrade:** Assisting in the assembly (gluing and ultrasonic wire bonding) of hybrid silicon detectors and associated electronics for an upgrade of a major detector component of the ATLAS experiment at the CERN Large Hadron Collider.
 - **Testing sensors in a particle beam:** With physicist colleagues, preparing and mounting detector components to be tested in the Birmingham medical physics cyclotron. Maintaining the basic infrastructure for these tests and ensuring efficient operation.
 - **Outreach activities:** Maintaining the particle detectors (cloud and spark chamber and scintillation counters) used by physicist colleagues in school visits and on Open Days

Scope of Role

All aspects of technical support (electronic, electrical and mechanical) as part of a two person team.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications & Experience

Essential criteria

- HNC or higher qualification in a technical subject, involving mechanical, electrical or electronic techniques.
- Very sound grounding in a wide range of technical skills and the strong motivation to develop these further.
- Ability to foresee technical problems in finely specified equipment and to suggest solutions.
- Basic general computing knowledge.
- Willingness to travel for short periods within the UK and abroad to attend meetings and assist in hardware installation.

Desirable criteria

- General skills in basic mechanical and electrical construction, electrical assembly, electronics design and construction, use of test equipment and provision of design and test documentation.
- Experience in meeting precise specifications to high standards.
- Experience with CAD or PCB layout work.
- Interest in high energy physics research.
- Outgoing nature, able to interact well with a wide range of colleagues from professors to undergraduates, also including external contacts in academia and industry.
- Driving license.

Planning & Organisation

- Coordinating and scheduling a wide range of tasks with senior technical colleagues and physicists.
- Anticipation and prioritisation of tasks to ensure continuity of service and make most effective use of the group's technical capacity.

Decision Making

- Providing detailed input to senior academic colleagues and involvement in decision-making on design or production issues, such as construction methods to be adopted and scheduling of tasks.

Internal/External Relationships

- Work closely and liaise with all members of the particle physics group on a regular basis. This will require a positive, proactive attitude, for example making contact with academic and research staff when required, on own initiative.
- External relationships to colleagues at other institutes and to vendors and engineers from our suppliers in industry, as described above.
- Give presentations and/or contribute to meetings, either local or external.