



Mercator Ocean International has been a pioneer in operational oceanography activities for nearly 25 years through its public service mission to preserve the ocean. Many scientific and societal challenges need to be met in order to ensure a sustainable ocean, whether they relate to the environment, biodiversity, climate change, the blue economy or education. To meet these challenges, we are required to constantly and in real time describe, analyse and forecast the state of the global ocean using reliable numerical models, then make this information relevant and accessible to all — whether public or commercial services, manufacturers, policy makers, associations, NGOs, teachers or citizens.

Mercator Ocean International thus combines scientific excellence and social commitment on a daily basis. As a non-profit company under multinational governance (ES, FR, GB, IT, NO), we work in a climate of trust with our nine shareholding partners, all key players in the development of European oceanography.

For five years, Mercator Ocean International has been conducting the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service on behalf of the European Union. CMEMS offers free, open access to scientifically validated operational information on the ocean to several thousand subscribers worldwide. To this end, the company coordinates a unique network of around 100 partners in Europe specialising in Earth observation and ocean forecasting.

Based near Toulouse in South-West France, the company's 100 or so contributors are all committed to achieving the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

We are offering a permanent position for a:

Head of the GEO Blue Planet European Office (F/H)

GEO Blue Planet is the ocean and coastal coordinating entity within the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat provides scientific and logistical support for GEO Blue Planet activities.

Mercator Ocean International has been tasked by the European Commission to strengthen the European Commission visibility and influence in the GEO Blue Planet initiative. To answer this need, Mercator Ocean International will set up a GEO Blue Planet European Office. The European office is expected to coordinate on an active, routine and sustained basis with the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat and its affiliated committees.

Within the MOi Scientific Direction, you will be in charge of the GEO Blue Planet European Office (see detailed description below).

Your Mission:

- Contribute to GEO Blue Planet strategic planning and coordination actions based on existing European investments to ensure their promotion to main international stakeholders.
- Co-design, co-develop and contribute to the GEO Blue scientific and technical working groups including developing specific actions in relation to the main priorities of the Commission and EU Member States.
- Engage with actors along the value chain to promote the use of ocean observations, the development of sustainable applications and best practices related to seas and the ocean with training, technology transfer and scientific exchanges within the EU regional area of intervention (e.g. Arctic/Europe/Africa).

- Integrate these activities with Mercator Ocean International ocean monitoring and user engagement activities and ensure they benefit to and from them.

The qualities we are looking for :

- PhD in marine science (preferred) or equivalent engineering degree
- More than 5 year experience in operational oceanography and/or in the development of ocean services and applications.
- Good knowledge of the areas of benefits and user communities that require ocean information services.
- Experience in international and European initiatives and programmes related to ocean observations and its value chain.
- Good knowledge of the GEO Blue Planet initiative.
- Good knowledge of the European landscape in ocean observing and information services.
- Ability to build and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues across the organisation and externally.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- Fluent in English essential.

Send your cover letter and a detailed CV with the following reference **2020-06/DS/GEOBP** to recruitment@mercator-ocean.fr by July 13, 2020 at the latest.

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Terms of Reference of the Mercator Ocean International “GEO Blue Planet European office”

Mercator Ocean International sets up within its organization a *GEO Blue Planet European office* to contribute to the development of this international initiative for sustained oceans, and, on behalf of the European Commission, to further integrate and promote European activities in this domain.

The GEO Blue Planet office is fully integrated into the MOi organization, benefits from its resources and skills, and will be initially staffed with a full time long-term position to lead the action. As the activity develops, it is expected to reinforce the team by one or two short term positions. At the same time, Mercator Ocean International sets up a *G7/GOOS European Office* under the same model and will foster synergies between these two actions and other international developments.

Mercator Ocean International defined with the European Commission the terms of reference of its GEO Blue Planet European office, as follows:

GEO Blue Planet

GEO Blue Planet (<https://geoblueplanet.org/>) is the ocean and coastal arm of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), a partnership of more than 100 national governments and 100 Participating Organizations. GEO Blue Planet works to ensure the sustained development and use of ocean and coastal observations for the benefit of society by promoting collection of continuous ocean observations, processing of data into information and linking this information with societal needs. GEO Blue Planet tackles the end of the value chain from observations to applications based on a network of ocean and coastal-observers, social scientists and end-user representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups.

As part of its 2020 – 2022 work programme period, GEO Blue Planet will work to identify and share best practices on stakeholder engagement and societal awareness; communications; data discovery, access and utilization; and capacity development. The initiative will collaborate with various GEO activities and partners to support GEO's engagement priorities and strengthen linkages with stakeholders. GEO Blue Planet will also work to develop the below knowledge hubs and decision-support tools:

- Knowledge hubs for fisheries, coral reefs and ocean-related SDG monitoring
- Multi-hazard Information and Alert System for the Wider Caribbean
- Early Warning System for Marine Flooding of Reef-lined Islands
- Early-warning Systems for Water-associated Diseases
- Systems for observing, quantifying, and classifying marine debris

The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat provides scientific and logistical support for GEO Blue Planet activities. The Secretariat also provides coordination support for activities and developing partnerships. The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat is hosted by the USA (NOAA).

Objective of the GEO Blue Planet European Office:

The objective of Mercator Ocean International is to ensure that European activities relevant to GEO Blue Planet are both promoted and integrated in GEO Blue Planet international programme. The *GEO Blue Planet European office* will:

- *Monitor and promote European programmes, projects and activities with possible relevance to Blue Planet (e.g. Copernicus services, Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe, European Research Infrastructures, EMODnet).*
- *Monitor and promote Blue Planet Activities which are beneficial for Europe*
- *Scrutinise the Blue Planet Implementation Plan on possible European relevant activities and introduce new European relevant thematic activities*
- *Provide technical support to the international Blue Planet activities*

Activities of the GEO Blue Planet European Office:

Three types of activities will be carried out:

1. Scientific diplomacy

Contribute to GEO Blue Planet strategic planning and co-coordinate actions based on existing European investments and ensure their promotion to main international stakeholders. Promote relevant European programmes and policies within Blue Planet:

- The European Green Deal
- Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe
- Copernicus Programme
- The EuroGEO initiative and particularly the Marine Action Group
- EMODNet
- European Research Infrastructures

2. Technical coordination

- Co-animate and contribute to scientific and technical working groups including developing specific actions in relation to the main priorities of the Commission and EU Member States
- Take an active and leading role in the Capacity Development Working Group to assess capacity development needs of Arctic and Neighbouring African Countries.
- Take an active and leading role in the Data discovery Working Group
- Participate in the GEO Blue Planet Thematic Activities
- Promote and steer GEOSS platform as the overarching platform for all GEO activities
- Scientific and societal awareness and outreach
- Engage with actors along the value chain to promote the use of ocean observations, the development of sustainable applications and best practices related to seas and oceans with training, technology transfer and scientific exchanges across regions addressed by Europe.

Be part of the GEO Blue Planet working group on stakeholder engagement and societal awareness to strengthen the European, Arctic and African neighbouring countries contributions to:

- organise regional and thematic workshops aimed at identifying and articulating ocean and coastal information needs and stakeholder priorities with a focus on European contributions to Blue Planet.
- to explain, in simple and meaningful terms, to a layman audience, what ocean observations are, what types of products and services can be derived from them, and how they are essential for the health, wealth and well-being of humankind and the sustainability of our global civilization.
- Compile iconic and inspiring examples of ocean observation and information products.
- Contribute to the interactive web-based system "Oceanscape" prototype to add the database with European products and services.
- Link with the EUROGEO Ocean Action Group and the Copernicus (satellite, marine, climate) user uptake activities.

European activities related to GEO Blue Planet will be integrated and coordinated with the ones related G7 Future of the Oceans and Seas initiative, notably in the Atlantic and the European sea basins. This will especially link to the EU international ocean governance policy, the All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (Galway and Belem Statements), SRIAS in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Baltic Sea and Arctic Ocean as well as relevant sea basin strategies. Coordination activities will be supported by the development of a few use-cases (based on existing initiatives) which will allow a "data value chain approach", de facto involving GOOS (observations), Copernicus Marine Service (modelling and ocean forecasting), the Blue Cloud (federating marine data resources and providing cloud services for marine applications) and GEO Blue Planet (users and applications).