



**Call for application to the function of Director of the Centre de Données
Astronomiques de Strasbourg – CDS
Deadline for application 5 January 2025**

The function of Director of the CDS will be opened in September 2025 and for duration of five years.

The Centre de Données Astronomiques de Strasbourg (CDS), created in 1972, is a national Research Infrastructure of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research Roadmap. It is also an internal team of the Observatoire astronomique de Strasbourg, in the framework of an INSU - Université de Strasbourg agreement. The CDS far-reaching initial charter still governs its activities:

- To collect ‘useful’ data on astronomical objects
- To improve them by critical evaluation and combination
- To distribute the results to the astronomical community
- To conduct research using the data

In short, the CDS role aims at supporting the international astronomical community in its research, and not only by collecting information. It is thus science driven and its core task is to provide added-value services to the community. Activity must be maintained at the highest possible level of quality and of scientific and technical relevance. This requires an active participation of scientists and a resolute R&D programme, as well as the development of an international role and collaborations, the networking of expertise and resources with other actors.

The CDS team benefits from an integrated team of scientists, «documentalists» and software engineers, with a deep symbiosis between the different types of

activities. It relies on the general services of the Observatoire for support activities (computer and network system, administration, logistics).

CDS is a part of the Observatoire astronomique de Strasbourg which is an Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers (OSU) involved in research, services, education and outreach in astronomy and astrophysics. Its aim is to increase quantitatively and qualitatively our knowledge and understanding of the Universe. The Observatoire was created on the current site in 1881. It is presently a research unit under the joint authority of the CNRS- INSU and the Université de Strasbourg. There are two research teams: CDS (see above), and GALHECOS (Galaxies, High Energy, Cosmology, Compact Objects and Stars). In addition to being responsible for the CDS as an INSU National Observing Service, the Observatoire also participates in SSC–XMM, SVOM, Euclid, Gaia, WEAVE and RAMSES labeled national services. The Observatoire is also responsible for the Specialization “Astrophysics and data sciences”, as part of a general Master dedicated to Physics.

In order to facilitate the search for candidates, a Search Committee has been set. Scientists interested by the position are invited to contact any member of the committee. The final application files, to be written in English, should include a covering letter, detailed curriculum vitae, a complete description of works and titles, a publication list, a detailed statement of intention describing the project for the CDS and the names and contact details of three experts who could be called upon by the Search Committee for letters of reference. The formal applications should be sent by E-mail, with a subject line "Director, CDS" to the President of the Committee, Professor Stephen Serjeant (see e-mail in the table below), before **5th January 2025**. Applications will be evaluated by the Scientific Council of CDS who will address a recommendation to CNRS-INSU and University of Strasbourg for the nomination. The successful applicant is expected to have, or develop, a working knowledge of French.

COMPOSITION OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE		
STEPHEN SERJEANT (Chair)	Chair of CDS Scientific Council	stephen.serjeant@open.ac.uk
MARICA BRANCHESI	Member of CDS Scientific Council	marica.branchesi@gssi.it
PIERRE FERNIQUE	Strasbourg Observatory, Technical Director CDS	pierre.fernique@astro.unistra.fr
FRANCK LE PETIT	Member of CDS Scientific Council	Franck.LePetit@obspm.fr
ADA NEBOT	Strasbourg Observatory	ada.nebot@astro.unistra.fr
PIERRE-ALAIN DUC	Strasbourg Observatory, Director	pierre- alain.duc@astro.unistra.fr

The committee will be assisted in its work by Chiara Ferrari (CNRS/INSU, Scientific Delegate), on behalf of CNRS/INSU by Martin Giard, Deputy Director for Astronomy and Astrophysics, and on behalf of the University of Strasbourg by Rémi Barillon, Vice-Président for Research, doctoral training and open science.

More information may be obtained from the members of the Search Committee and the following web sites are also of interest:

<https://www.insu.cnrs.fr>

<https://www.unistra.fr>

<https://astro.unistra.fr/>

<https://cds.unistra.fr>