



Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation Executive Administration

VACANCY NOTICE	
Post	A806 – HORIZON QUALIFICATION & ACCEPTANCE OFFICER
Grade	A3*
Division	HORIZON Programme Division
Section	Technical Section (transversal FREMM and HORIZON-MLU Programmes)
Management of Staff	0
Location	La Spezia, Italy
Initial Contract Duration	3 years
Closing Date for Applications	23/02/2026
Start Date	01/06/2026
Interview Date	Week commencing on 23/03/2026

1. Background

The HORIZON (HRZ) Programme Division (PD) is in charge of the management of two different Programmes: The HRZ MLU (Middle Life Upgrade) Programme and the FREMM (European Multi-Mission Frigates) one.

The scope of the HRZ-MLU Programme is the development, production and Initial In-Service Support of the Horizon ships Class Mid Life Upgrade. The Franco-Italian- Horizon Class is composed of the following 4 vessels:

- 2 French Vessels:
 - Forbin (FOC 1);
 - Chevalier Paul (FOS 1).
- 2 Italian Vessels:
 - Andrea Doria (FOC 2);
 - Caio Duilio (FOS 2).

Besides, with a dedicated section, the PD is responsible for the production development and In-Service Support of the European Multi-Mission Frigates (FREMM).

The FREMM Programme is broken down into different ship versions:

- Anti Sous-Marine (ASM) / Frigate de Defense Aerieenne (FREDA) versions for France;
- General Purpose (GP) / Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) /Anti-Submarine Warfare enhanced (ASW enhanced)/ Evolution (EVO) versions for Italy.

As of 2026, the French participation to the FREMM Programme will be completed and the Horizon PD will only be managing the Italian counterpart to the Programme.

The HRZ MLU Programme Division is located in the Paris area with one Satellite office in La Spezia (Italy). A new additional Satellite office will be created in Toulon (France) in 2026. This post is based in La Spezia (Italy).

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The Qualification & Acceptance (Q&A) Officer reports to the Programme Manager and is in charge of:

- Programme operational aspects for both programmes; in particular for HRZ_MLU programme they shall coordinate common activities with the HRZ Operational and Q&A Officer (A829) based in Paris/Toulon;
- Product quality survey for both programmes; in particular for HRZ_MLU programme they shall coordinate common activities with the HRZ Combat System Officer and Q&A Officer (A826) and with General Management Officer 2 (A822) based in Paris;
- Qualification & Acceptance Management for both programmes. In particular, for HRZ_MLU programme they shall coordinate common activities with the HRZ Combat System Officer and Q&A Officer (A826) and with HRZ Operational and Q&A Officer (A829) based in Paris and Toulon;
- Manage, in cooperation with Navy support team all operational assets provided by Italy (GFx - Government Furnished/x= Information, Facilities, Services and Equipment) involved during trials execution for both programmes; in particular for HRZ_MLU programme they shall coordinate activities with the HRZ Platform and GFx Officer 1 based in La Spezia (A830) and with HRZ Platform and GFx Officer 2 (A831) based in Paris;
- Maintaining relationships with the Participating State (PS) from which they are a national.

For the common programme activities, the post holder shall be jointly responsible and shall co-ordinate with the correspondent Staff Members based in Paris and Toulon.

The post holder shall be solely responsible for Programme activities related to the PS from which they are a national, such as:

- Operational and Q&A matters;
- GFx management;
- Product Quality Assurance.

Nevertheless, they shall keep the relevant Officers based in Paris and Toulon informed to guarantee the proper management of the common programme activities. The post holder will report:

- for common activities, to both the Programme Manager (PM) and the Deputy Programme Manager (DPM);
- for those matters concerning only the Participating State from which they are a national, to the PM or DPM (the one who is also a national from the Participating state).

The post holder will:

- Ensure close and permanent liaison with the Navies and Naval Staff concerning operational topics, coordinate the relationship between HORIZON PD and other structures from Participating States and Industry, responsible for Quality Assurance and for the Q&A process;
- Manage all contractual aspects relevant to their field of competences, with special regard to Q&A aspects and to quality assurance activities;
- Ensure that the requirements and approved changes expressed by the Navies are incorporated in the specifications according to the applicable procedures;
- Contribute to the definition of programme trials and participate to systems qualification, monitoring systems integration and keeping updated the Q&A Plan;
- Monitor/manage visit requests on board proposed by Nation and/or Industry, according to the relevant procedures and personally follow visitors onboard when requested;
- Personally follow the Official Q&A onboard activities, both when the ship is in harbour and at sea; and monitor the correct fulfilment by industry of the Q&A requirements defined in the contracts for the warships, systems and sub-systems;
- Prepare and chair Contractual Q&A meetings and reviews, supporting validation of Trial Procedures and Trial Reports;
- Ensure that Qualification Files and Acceptance Files are properly prepared by industry in schedule and accordingly to the Q&A Plan;
- Monitor that the industrial Q&A database is updated recording relevant data related to progress, results and history of the tests and verifications performed in order to support the Q&A decisions;
- Analyse and control the management documentation produced by Prime Contractor related to Quality Assurance aspects and assets involved;
- Organise and chair meetings concerning Quality Assurance process;
- Contribute to all activities resulting from the application of Quality Assurance as defined by relevant contractual plans and, where necessary, participate to the quality audits;
- Manage the requests for deviation permit/concessions raised by the Prime Contractor;

- Monitor the audit plan for the surveillance of sub-contractors produced by the Prime Contractor;
- Support the GQAR (Government Quality Assurance Representative) and record the relevant results of GQA activities within OCCAR reporting system.

Within the duties described above, they will:

- participate to the technical definition and integration of the system equipment (GSFE) from operational point of view;
- propose, where possible, in co-operation with the Navies, solutions to maintain commonalities between the national variants.

3. Key competences and skills required for the grade

(You must provide evidence of meeting these key competences and skills in your Application, Section 12).

- CS 1** The ability to establish and maintain excellent working relationships at all levels in a multicultural context and with respect for diversity;
- CS 2** Excellent interpersonal and team working skills with the ability to interact and communicate at all levels within OCCAR as well as with Nations;
- CS 3** The ability to work in a changing, developing and demanding environment;
- CS 4** The ability to implement clear, efficient and logical approaches to work, to manage assignments, objectives and time;
- CS 5** The ability to use Computer and Information Technology (ICT) facilities and be able to demonstrate a good working knowledge of MS Office software.

4. Specialist knowledge and experience required for the post

(You must provide evidence of meeting these specialist requirements in your Application, Sections 10 and 11).

4.1 Essential:

- ES 1** Previous experience aboard Navy vessels;
- ES 2** Good knowledge of the national and international standards for Quality Assurance and Quality Management procedures;
- ES 3** Broad experience in Q&A procedures, trials/testing and acceptance of technically complex deliverables as customer governmental official technical and/or operational expert;
- ES 4** Basic knowledge of Combat Systems, Platform Systems and Sub-systems installed aboard vessels;
- ES 5** Prior knowledge and experience in contract management.

4.2 Desirable:

- DS 1** Experience in international co-operation activities and intercultural relationships;
- DS 2** Knowledge in applying programme management disciplines in a Through Life Management sense;
- DS 3** Experience of third-party quality audits;
- DS 4** Experience in technical management (requirements, relations with industry etc).

5. Language Requirements

- ADVANCED level¹ of ENGLISH both oral and written.
- Additional knowledge of another OCCAR Member or Participating State's language will be considered as an asset.

6. Qualifications

- A university degree of Science in Engineering (Electronic/Telecommunication or Naval Architecture/Marine Engineering)².
- Due to the nature of this role it is absolutely essential you have the "ability to embark" in order to participate in trials at sea, with demonstrable prior experience of having operated in this capacity. You must have no known reasons that you would not be able to achieve this when applying for the post.

7. Security Clearance

Security clearance at OCCAR Secret level is required for this post.

8. Applications and Points of Contact

For further information regarding this Post, please contact:

Lorenzo RACITI (Programme Manager)

Email: lorenzo.raciti@occar.int

Applications for this Vacancy Notice should be submitted through the appropriate National Administrations.

OCCAR Privacy Statement:

When applying for an OCCAR vacancy, it is necessary for OCCAR to collect and process personal data about you in order to assess and evaluate your suitability for the vacancy, and (if successful) to coordinate with relevant service providers in preparation of your appointment. For further information please visit our web-site: OCCAR Privacy Statement - <http://www.occar.int/privacy-data-protection>.

¹ The language levels can be found on the OCCAR website, www.occar.int Careers / Applying.

² It is a university degree of five or six year second cycle (master's) degree (300 or 360 ECTS)