



**Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM)
National Centre for Atmospheric Science
School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment**

Head of Facility

Based at Cranfield University

The Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM) has been established as a joint facility of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Met Office in order to provide users with access to the FAAM BAe 146 large Atmospheric Research Aircraft (ARA). FAAM (www.faam.ac.uk) serves the atmospheric research communities of the UK Universities, Met Office and NERC.

The ARA is a highly modified BAE-146 aircraft, equipped with a wide range of instrumentation for observing the physics and chemistry of the atmosphere. The aircraft was purchased by NERC from BAE Systems in April 2014. Operation of the aircraft is contracted out to Directflight Ltd, with BAE Systems continuing to be overall provider of aircraft services. The ARA is based at Cranfield University. NERC and Cranfield have recently strengthened their cooperation and as a result, the ARA has new hangar facilities. New laboratory and workshop facilities have recently been created alongside the hangar and work is just beginning on building a new office facility. The new FAAM offices will share the building with a new Cranfield Centre for Atmospheric Informatics and Emissions Technology, with which it is expected that close collaboration will develop.

The Head of FAAM will provide the management of this key national and international research aircraft facility. In addition to leading the operational management of the facility, the role will involve promoting the usage of the aircraft by the UK atmospheric science community, encouraging the development of new instrumentation for use on the aircraft and fostering national and international collaboration. The management role includes direct responsibility for a team of 25 scientists, engineers, technical specialists and administrators. It also crucially includes ensuring that the scientific needs of the user community are efficiently and safely translated into technical and regulatory developments of the aircraft and its instruments. The role will therefore require an ability to deal convincingly with a wide range of external stakeholders, including the science community, the aircraft operator and the engineers with responsibility for approving requests for certification.

University Grade 9 (£47,801 - £55,389 p.a.)

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Stephen Mobbs, NCAS Director, email stephen.mobbs@ncas.ac.uk

Closing Date: 31 January 2016

Interviews are expected to be held on 16 February 2016

Ref: ENVEE1094

Click here for further information about working at the University of Leeds
www.leeds.ac.uk/info/20025/university_jobs

Job Description

Grade: NCAS grade C. Leeds University grade 9

Responsible and reports to: NCAS Director

FAAM is one of the research facilities of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS). NCAS exists in part to provide NERC with its National Capability in Atmospheric Science. FAAM sits alongside the equivalent NCAS ground-based observations facility, the Atmospheric Measurement Facility (AMF). The heads of FAAM and AMF work with the NCAS Director of Observations to provide both facility management and strategic direction for NCAS and community observational atmospheric science.

The Head of FAAM will manage the operation from the base at Cranfield University. She or he will be employed by the University of Leeds (currently one of the principal NCAS partner universities and the holder of the contract with NERC to provide NCAS). Additionally, the Head of FAAM will be responsible to the Met Office Head of Observational Based Research (OBR) for ensuring that FAAM meets the requirements of Met Office research priorities.

FAAM currently has 25 staff based in Cranfield, including technical, operations and finance managers. There is also a project and contract manager providing management of FAAM's project and contractual arrangements. A designated contracts officer represents NERC as aircraft owner and is based at NERC's head office. The NCAS Finance Manager also provides financial support. The majority of the FAAM staff provide specific expertise in the operation and management of the wide range of specialist instruments and deployment on scientific campaigns. The ARA is used in measurement campaigns in the UK and worldwide. Upcoming campaigns will include work in India and Namibia. Overall, the ARA completes around 350-450 science flying hours per year.

The principal FAAM management committees are the Strategy Committee, responsible for overall strategy and development of the facility, and the Operations Committee, responsible for detailed campaign and engineering planning, the FAAM Finance Committee, the FAAM Health and Safety Committee and the FAAM Contract Management Review, responsible for monitoring the operation of contracts relating to FAAM. Other formal groups support the work of these committees.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Jointly responsible for the strategic planning and development of the facility as part of the FAAM strategy committee, inputting specialist and unique knowledge to critical strategic decisions
- Work with the FAAM Strategy Committee and the FAAM Operations Committee in order to develop and implement plans which ensure that FAAM meets the current and future needs of the atmospheric science research community. This includes the serviceability of the aircraft and its instruments, the provision of FAAM data products and the coordination of the development of future capabilities

- Influence the decisions made by the FAAM Strategy Committee, the FAAM Operations Committee, the FAAM Finance Committee, the FAAM Health and Safety Committee and the FAAM Contract Management Review by the provision of highly specialist information, reports and advice. Additionally, lead and manage the implementation of decisions and recommendations made by these groups
- Responsible for the effective, efficient and safe leadership, management and operation of FAAM and its staff (including their deployment on detachments). This includes responsibility for support of all necessary procedures in relation to the complex and strict regulations relating to certification, airworthiness approval and safe operation of the aircraft as governed by the CAA
- Responsible for operational management and development of FAAM's strategic external stakeholder relationships, including those with the operator Directflight Ltd, BAE Systems, the maintenance provider Avalon Aero, NCAS, NERC, Met Office and Cranfield University to ensure the ongoing success of FAAM as one of the UK's high profile national assets. This will include resolving conflicting priorities of the stakeholders such that excellent relationships are maintained
- Responsible for promoting the facility to the scientific user community and for translating the complex scientific requirements of the community into achievable campaign plans
- Respond quickly to emergencies which require an immediate presence of the aircraft, negotiating with the scientific user community to reschedule planned activity
- Responsible for the resolution, with Directflight, BAE Systems and other stakeholders, any issues and problems arising from the aircraft provision, so as to ensure optimum efficiency of the overall tasking is achieved
- Responsible for , and participation in, the line management structure of the FAAM staff, as appropriate, including task assignment, safety, training and contributing to staff development. This involves working within the regulations of the three employing organisations
- Responsibility for management of the £5m FAAM budget, including expenditure and verification of operational charges imposed by contractors
- Any other duties as may reasonably be required, consistent with the grade of the post

Career Expectations

The University of Leeds is committed to developing its staff. All staff participate in the Staff Review and Development scheme and we continue to work with individuals, supporting them to maximise their potential.

Progression to a higher grade is dependent on an individual taking on an increased level of responsibility. Vacancies that arise within the area or across the wider University are advertised on the HR website - <http://jobs.leeds.ac.uk> - to allow staff to apply for wider career development opportunities.

University Values

All staff are expected to operate in line with the University's values and standards, which work as an integral part of our strategy and set out the principles of how we work together. More information about the University's strategy and values is available at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/comms/strategy/>.

Person Specification

This post is available to NERC, Met Office and core-funded NCAS employees

Essential

- A degree or relevant experience in a physical science or engineering discipline
- Ability to learn and understand the scientific drivers of research in airborne atmospheric science
- Broad, high-level technical understanding of the requirements of an effective research facility
- An understanding of aircraft regulatory and certification issues
- Basic understanding of procedures needed in working on an aircraft and those used within aircraft organisations
- Ability to successfully manage complex stakeholder relationships
- Experience of staff management, including evidence of effective team management
- Experience of management of complex projects
- Demonstrable and effective team building and leadership skills
- Good negotiating skills, including ability to accommodate conflicting demands
- Excellent oral and written communication including proven ability to make persuasive and accurate technical and financial cases and to communicate at multiple levels
- Excellent planning and organisational skills, including ability to ensure optimum use of resources
- Ability to work flexibly to meet tight deadlines and to adapt to changing requirements
- A pro-active approach to taking action, including advising senior management, in order to ensure that projects are completed efficiently and on time
- A commitment to staff development, both personal and as a team leader

Desirable

- Previous experience of managing a scientific research facility
- Experience of atmospheric science and/or in an aviation operational environment
- An in-depth knowledge of the scientific drivers of research in airborne atmospheric science
- An in-depth knowledge of the technical requirements for research in airborne atmospheric science

- Knowledge of meteorology sufficient for flight planning purposes
- Experience of financial accounting and contract management
- Some knowledge of the type of instrumentation used by FAAM

Additional Information

The University offers generous terms and conditions of employment, a wide range of benefits, services, facilities and family friendly policies. Full details are available on the Human Resources web pages accessible at www.leeds.ac.uk/hr

Disclosure and Barring Service checks

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check is not required for this position. However, applicants who have unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings, including any pending criminal proceedings must indicate this in the 'other personal details' section of the application form and send details to the Recruitment Officer at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Disabled Applicants

The post is located at the Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements at Cranfield University. Disabled applicants wishing to review access are invited to contact the department direct. Additional information may be sought from the Recruitment Officer, email disclosure@leeds.ac.uk or tel + 44 (0)113 343 1723.

Disabled applicants are not obliged to inform employers of their disability but will still be covered by the Equality Act once their disability becomes known.

Further information for applicants with disabilities, impairments or health conditions is available in the applicant guidance.