The Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE)

The Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE) provides policy direction, oversight, and assessment for the NASA engineering and program management communities and serves as principal advisor to the NASA Administrator and other senior officials on matters pertaining to the technical readiness and execution of NASA programs and projects. The OCE includes four divisions, Engineering Policy, Practice and Development Division (EPPD), NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC), Program and Project Management Policy, Practice and Development Division (PMPD) and the Chief Knowledge Office (CKO) and are responsible for providing policy and practice direction for the Agency’s engineering community, independent testing, analysis and assessments of NASA’s high-risk projects to ensure safety and mission success, development of program and project management policy, and ensures that critical knowledge is provided to the Agency’s practitioners and shared when needed. The OCE provides lead technical authority on engineering matters and have embedded Chief Engineers into the Mission Directorates to ensure that NASA's development efforts and mission operations are planned and conducted on a sound engineering basis with proper controls and management of technical risks. Please refer to the OCE website www.nasa.gov/offices/ouce/home/index.html for additional information.

Detail Assignments:

Detail opportunities in OCE include support to Mission Directorate and SCAN Chief Engineers, as well as for Program Project Management.

The selectees provides technical support to executive leadership in the development and oversight of Agency engineering policies and standards in support of the Agency’s programs, projects, and research activities. This includes supporting the establishment and management of the OCE resources, requirements and associated milestones. Primary duties include but are not limited to executing management and engineering responsibilities for systems engineering for the Office; understanding of advanced engineering concepts, mission, analysis, industry best practices, multi-agency commonality, field center requirements, and systems engineering. This is a great opportunity for any candidate interested in gaining a greater understanding of Technical Authority, Mission Directorate activities, and exposure to Agency management forums (APMC, MSC, EC), and integrating project activities and information across its many engineering and programmatic disciplines throughout the lifecycle of spacecraft development and operations.

Mission Directorate and SCAN Chief Engineer Support:

Opportunities for support to the OCE Mission Directorate and SCAN Chief Engineers include functioning as a full deputy to these leaders in the execution of Technical Authority at the highest level in the Agency. Detailees will gain insight and experience in Agency-level technical and programmatic issues and processes, including opportunities to interact and build relationships with Agency, Mission Directorate and Center senior leadership. The positions involve travel to NASA Centers, launch sites, test facilities, contractor plants and aeronautics fields. Responsibilities include representing Engineer Technical Authority at the highest levels.
**Project Management Enterprise Integration:**

NASA is making strides to better integrate project activities and information across its many engineering and programmatic disciplines throughout the lifecycle of spacecraft development and operations. Digital opportunities enable new approaches to integrate and innovate methods to ensure project success meeting its commitments. Understanding the way these digital opportunities will affect project management policies, guidance, training, lessons learned and best practices is key for NASA to do more while managing increasing complexity. Selectees may:

- Develop demonstrations, white papers, and journal articles by collaborating across disciplines and documenting your research to improve the integration of Project Management, Systems Engineering, and discipline-specific information using digital approaches to reveal interdependencies, increase insight, and improve control on complex projects and management of capabilities.
- Identify information architectures, metadata, and classification schemes to capture project information and performance that enables digital assessments across multi-dimensional data sets to identify previously unknown correlations and causal insights.

**Grade levels:** GS-14-15

**Location:** HQ, Detail-in-Place, Combinations, Flexible based on selectee’s circumstances, etc.

**Duration:** 1 year; with possible extension.

**Who will be considered:** Civil Servants, JPL IPA’s

**Skills required:**

- Independent, self-starter
- Results and solutions oriented
- Strong written and interpersonal communications skills
- Strong technical and/or business analysis skills
- Ability to express non-advocate views, give constructive criticism, and be able to maintain a healthy skepticism
- Ability to understand issues at an Agency level and the consequences to NASA of various courses of action

**Skills Specific to Organizations:**

- Program and project management experience
- Knowledge of Agency policy and processes as they relate to Program and project
management, especially those contained in the 7120 series of programmatic Agency Procedural Requirements documents