

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Project Manager - BlueMission Atlantic and Arctic 2030
Grade & Contract	Team Lead (ENGINEER Grade II), Specified Purpose Contract up to 31st August 2030 (Funded under Horizon Europe)
Service Group	Policy, Innovation & Research Support (PIRS)
Location	Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co. Galway (The Marine Institute has a Blended Working Policy in Place)

Who will you work with and what will the role involve?

Project Background

This is an exciting opportunity to lead an EU Horizon Europe action in support of the EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters' (the Mission). The Mission, launched by the European Commission, targets the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems by 2030 through regional 'Lighthouses' focusing on specific objectives for each lighthouse. The Mission is designed to fulfil three interlinked and mutually supportive objectives: "i) Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity; ii) Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters; and iii) Make the sustainable blue economy carbon neutral and circular." Mission objectives are being implemented in two phases: 'development and piloting phase' (2021-2025), and a 'deployment and upscaling' phase (2026-2030).

The BlueMission Atlantic and Arctic 2030 Coordination and Support Action (BlueMissionAA 2030) will make a strong contribution to achieving the targets set in the Mission through its strategic plan of work. Project activities include:

- establishing national hubs across the Atlantic-Arctic region which will align Mission objectives with both national policy cycles and basin-wide strategies;
- establishing a coherent, participatory governance model for clear and accountable decisions in the Atlantic and Arctic basin; establishing a financial ecosystem for Mission activities;
- providing an accessible portfolio of support measures to ensure the replication and upscale of innovative solutions addressing the Mission objectives in the Atlantic and Arctic;
- establishing a coherent Atlantic-Arctic monitoring, synthesis and impact-tracking framework;
- developing a leadership framework; and raising awareness of the Mission, expanding the Mission community, and mobilising a broad coalition of citizens and stakeholders from across the Atlantic-Arctic Lighthouse regions.

This important role supports our organisation in the delivery of its mandate to support, promote and coordinate national research and participate in international research collaboration. The role provides candidates with the opportunity to work in an attractive and dynamic work environment, within a diverse organisation which invests in and celebrates its people.

Who will you work with & what Will the role involve

The BlueMission Atlantic and Arctic 2030 manager will provide leadership and management to the project consortium to ensure the project is delivered to a high standard of excellence and that the contractual requirements are delivered in full.

The successful candidate will work in close cooperation with the PIRS Director and will hold the primary responsibility for the implementation and delivery of Marine Institute commitments in the newly funded **“BlueMission Atlantic and Arctic 2030”**, a *Horizon Europe* project funded by the European Commission.

The project manager will, in particular, lead Work Packages 1 and 2 of the BlueMission Atlantic and Arctic 2030 project (BlueMissionAA 2030), enabling delivery of a range of coordination aspects of the project. Specifically, the Programme Manager will:

- Manage all aspects of the BlueMissionAA 2030 project, ensuring appropriate coordination of work package inputs and outputs with partners, project reporting (technical and financial), and compliance with all governance requirements.
- Ensure effective pan-European collaboration and coordination with other Mission Lighthouses, relevant projects such as the other Mission CSAs, lighthouse cascade funding projects, and Mission Ocean R&I projects, as well as stakeholders and collaboration with the UN Decade of Ocean Science.
- Establish a strategic direction framework to guide activities and priorities of Mission Ocean & Waters hubs to align national and regional efforts with EU macro-regional strategies and intergovernmental frameworks to meet Mission Ocean & Waters objectives.
- Build and mobilise the multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral cooperation needed to expedite the progress delivering the Mission targets in the Atlantic and Arctic Sea basins.
- Engage with national and international representatives to promote the objectives of BlueMissionAA 2030 and the broader Mission Ocean.
- Promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Irish and European stakeholders and institutions to underpin longer-term cooperation in the marine science field.

The Marine Institute recently completed reviews of its organisation and strategic achievement. The outcomes of these reviews are expected to affect the roles and duties of employees and to bring about other organisational changes. Any impacts or changes will be communicated in a timely fashion to staff as they arise.

What will you be doing every day?

Principal Tasks:

The postholder will be responsible for carrying out a range of duties consistent with the work programme of the project. These include:

- As Project Manager for the BlueMissionAA project, ensure effective management, governance, quality control, oversight and reporting across all aspects of the project;
- Lead specifically on the implementation of Work Packages 1 & 2 of the project, ensuring timely submission of high-quality deliverables by MI and project partners;

- Ensure that all MI corporate governance requirements are met and take overall responsibility for financial and technical reporting requirements in accordance with the Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement for the project, including procurement, and carry out all the necessary financial verifications and due diligence;
- Liaise with Consortium partners, the EC, other national and international partners and stakeholders to promote BlueMissionAA 2030 and provide up to date information on the progress of the project;
- Manage the process of engagement with national and Atlantic/Arctic stakeholders specifically, e.g. through policy dialogues, meetings and workshops;
- Act as a focal point for event organisation related to the BlueMissionAA 2030 project and represent the MI at relevant meetings and workshops e.g. annual Mission Ocean Forum etc.;
- Act as a BlueMissionAA 2030 liaison point for synergistic Atlantic and Arctic programmes and projects;
- Act as a point of contact and for Ireland for the implementation of BlueMissionAA 2030 and the EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030';
- Prepare quarterly budgetary and progress reports for the project;
- Review, evaluate and disseminate outputs from deliverables funded under the project and provide recommendations on future actions;
- Lead the development and implementation of a strategic direction framework to guide the activities and priorities of Mission Ocean & Waters hubs, ensuring effective alignment of national and regional initiatives with EU macro-regional strategies and intergovernmental frameworks, and driving coordinated delivery of Mission Ocean & Waters objectives;
- Identify and deliver on opportunities to build additional research capacity and synergies between projects and research teams at national and international level;
- Work with the MI International Programmes team to support the development of national activities linked to Mission Implementation; e.g. through the High-Level Group on Horizon Europe and track governmental and agency initiatives that support the objectives of the Mission Ocean;
- Working with the MI Communications Team, build and implement a communications plan to promote the MI related activities and outputs for BlueMissionAA 2030, including web presence, social and traditional media and presentations at events and conferences;
- Ensure project activities and outputs effectively contribute to measurable progress towards stated Mission objectives, and work with partners to enable continuation of service delivery and impact beyond the lifetime of the project (BlueMissionAA 2030 legacy); and
- Any other duties relevant to the role and grade that may arise from time to time as assigned by the Director of PIRS.

What do you need to have done to apply for this role? (Education, Professional or Technical Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, Aptitudes, Experience and Training)

Essential / Important:

- A relevant degree in science, business or policy/governance, or a related field.
- At least 3 / three years post qualification demonstrated experience of working in a relevant technical or scientific role, e.g. Horizon Europe projects, EU projects, programme management, project coordination.
- Experience leading teams, managing staff and/or motivating people.
- Experience of working with the European Commission and international stakeholders at a range of levels.
- Demonstrated experience of coordinating and delivering multiple projects concurrently and a demonstrated ability to take a lead roles in delivery of complex scientific programmes.
- Demonstrated experience of working in an interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary science environment.
- Demonstrated excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to work with, organise and effectively communicate with people ranging from consortium partners, scientists, innovators and policy advisors and the wider public.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively represent organisations at international meetings and fora across the Atlantic and Arctic (e.g. Atlantic Stakeholders Platform Conference, EU Ocean Days, Arctic Frontiers).
- Demonstrated experience working on collaborative EU/international projects research coordination and support (e.g. BlueMissionAA, Prep4Blue, OKEANO, Horizon Europe, Interreg, etc.).
- Experience working in EU Consortia and working with EU partners.
- Proven ability to manage and integrate complex requirements into clear action planning, and succinct documents and strategies.
- Demonstrate full independence, impartiality and confidentiality in conducting the scope of work.
- Demonstrated ability to identify, evaluate and manage risk.
- Demonstrated experience of working in roles that require working on own initiative.
- Demonstrated ability to work in dynamic environments with high and evolving demands and outputs.
- Track record of producing financial, technical and management reports.
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of working in roles that include ensuring compliance with good governance practice and compliance practices.
- Excellent written, verbal and communication skills with an ability to maintain good relations with customers, peers and direct reports.
- High level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Confident and assured in explaining requirements to others and ensuring compliance with organisation policies and procedures.
- Willingness to travel on a regular basis in Europe and internationally.
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Ideally nice to have / desirable:

- A postgraduate degree in a relevant area or discipline. Knowledge of/ experience of national and/or international research funding programmes and relevant ocean science/policy initiatives.
- Experience of working in a role linked to the EU Mission Ocean.
- Experience working with Atlantic & Arctic stakeholders.
- Strategic thinker capable of identifying opportunities and risks, with an impact focussed approach.
- Understanding of the issues surrounding marine spatial planning, conflicting objectives and trade-offs.
- An interest in applying research outputs to meet advisory and/or policy needs.
- Experience with hosting, running and facilitating workshops, conference events, and stakeholder meetings (in person and online).

What else do you need to know?

(Special personal attributes required for the role)

- This role would suit an adaptable, enthusiastic, fast learner who is interested in widening their skills and experience and capable of horizon scanning and out-of-the-box thinking

You should be:

- Solutions-oriented with good initiative and problem-solving ability.
- Impact / end-user focussed
- Self-sufficient while being a good team player.
- Organised and able to progress work independently.
- Diplomatic in manner, with the ability to resolve issues before conflict occurs.
- Dynamic, innovative, reliable and solutions focused.
- Resilient with the ability to remain focused and calm and positive under pressure.
- Able to effectively prioritise and manage time and to deliver outputs on schedule.
- Careful and methodical in manner.
- A highly effective communicator.

Description of service group and the wider team

PIRS provides a range of services, promotional and coordination activities linked to MI, national and international research and innovation across several programme areas including:

- Competitive Marine Research Funding Programme.
- MI Research Office
- Research & Innovation Coordination, Policy and Strategy (national and international)
- Policy Support and Socio-economics, Data and Evidence Programme
- Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership and Blue Bioeconomy Programme
- Our Shared Ocean Programme (DFA funded programme on Small Island Developing States, SIDS)
- Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Actions (OKEANO and BlueMissionAA)

The overall aim of Policy, Innovation and Research Support (PIRS) is to increase national coordination, promotion and support for marine research & innovation and also raise the capacity and research performance of the Marine Institute, positioning Ireland as a leader in ocean knowledge, and enhancing our international impact through Atlantic Ocean research initiatives. PIRS also provides analysis, advice and services in integrated maritime policy and marine socioeconomics supporting national governance goals in marine management and sustainable development of the blue economy.

Policy, Innovation and Research Support (PIRS) plays a key role in supporting and promoting marine research and innovation within the Marine Institute, and at national and international level. PIRS works collaboratively to implement key aspects of the MI Strategy, *Ocean Knowledge that Informs and*

Inspires. At the national level, PIRS coordinates the development of advice and input on behalf of the MI to national research strategies and policies.

PIRS leads and coordinates MI participation in a range of international science policy forums aimed at advancing the MI and Ireland's international research collaborations and influencing the international research agenda. On behalf of the MI, PIRS provides a range of services to the Irish marine and maritime research community to maximise the national success rate in winning international research funding.

Who will you report to / who will manage and support you?

The successful candidate will report directly to the PIRS Director.

What we offer

We value our staff, and we value their contribution to the work of the Marine Institute. In return for this, we provide benefits that promote a healthy work-life balance and which we hope will help them to develop professionally. These include personal and career development, work/life balance policies, an employee assistance programme, "Bike to Work" Scheme, staff medicals and annual flu vaccination.

Training

A full range of training will be provided as required, on the job and through appropriate courses. Training needs will be identified through the MI Performance Management Development System (PMDS).

Contacts:

Within the Marine Institute:

Marine Institute: PIRS Director, PIRS team members, MI Senior Management Team and liaison with other teams throughout the Marine Institute (as required)

External:

European Commission, BlueMissionAA2030 project partners, BlueMissionAA2030 Steering Committee, Mission Secretariat, Coordinators of the other lighthouse cascade grant projects, Lighthouse CSAs coordinator & partners, OKEANO coordinator, researchers based in Higher Education Institutes, Non-Governmental Organisations, Non-Profit Organisations, Public Research Bodies, Companies (both National & International) in the marine sector.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Team Leader (Engineer II grade) which runs from €76,202 - €92,931 (as of June 2026) based on a full-time role per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point of the scale (€76,202) and become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme unless you are currently or have worked in the Public Sector in the past 6 months and are a member of another Public Sector Scheme.

Annual leave:

Annual leave entitlement for a Team Lead is 27 working days per annum pro-rated to reflect time worked. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays. All leave must be approved in advance in line with Marine Institute leave policies and using time and leave management system in place, by your manager or their authorised representative.

Duration of contract:

This temporary specific purpose contract of employment will be for a 4-year period up to the 31st August 2030. The successful candidate will be on probation for the first 9 months of this contract.

Conditions of Offer:

Internal offers are subject to receipt of one satisfactory reference check and the required medical assessment completed by a Marine Institute appointed medical professional where applicable for a role.

External offers require two satisfactory references and completion of an appropriate pre-employment medical or medical questionnaire completed by a Marine Institute appointed medical professional where applicable for a role.

Who is the Marine Institute?

The Marine Institute is a non-commercial semi-state body, established by statute (Marine Institute Act, 1991). Under the Act, the Marine Institute was given the responsibility:

“to undertake, to co-ordinate, to promote and to assist in marine research and development and to provide such services related to marine research and development, that in the opinion of the Institute will promote economic development and create employment and protect the marine environment”.

In delivering its mandate, the Marine Institute operates as Ireland’s scientific agency responsible for supporting the sustainable development of the state’s maritime area and resources. We do this through conducting applied research and providing scientific knowledge, advice and services to government, industry and other stakeholders and users. This policy advice capacity, our broad mandate, and the research programmes we fund and undertake, give us a unique insight into the science-policy interface and make us an exemplar in the provision of integrated ocean knowledge.

The Marine Institute provides a broad range of essential scientific support to its parent department, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). There is an increasing demand from Government for the data and evidence that are essential to inform national policy and to underpin the state’s governance of our maritime area. Through laboratory, field and seagoing work, the Institute carries out statutory environmental, fisheries and aquaculture surveys, seafood testing and other monitoring programmes assigned by government. The Institute plays an important role in supporting the state’s response to the impacts of our changing seas and oceans, through working with the national and international scientific community to observe, study and understand our changing oceans. This essential scientific advice supports industry, protects consumers and underpins legislative and other obligations aimed at the protection and management of the marine environment.

The Marine Institute 5 Year Strategic Plan (2023 to 2027) is available [Here](#) . That strategic plan articulates a vision and mission as follows:

Our vision - *The Marine Institute is a national and international leader in ocean knowledge that benefits people, policy and planet.*

Our Mission - *The Marine Institute provides scientific, research and development services to government, agencies, industry and society that support the sustainable use of our maritime area, the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, and promote a shared understanding of the ocean.*

How to apply:

A C.V. and letter of application, summarising experience and skill set applicable to the position should be emailed to recruitment@marine.ie or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway, H91 R673. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **PIRS/TL/BLUEMISSION/OCT26**.

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon, Tuesday, 20th of October**. Unfortunately, late applications cannot be accepted.

Eligible Candidates must be:

1. A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway; or
2. A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or
3. A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or
4. A non-EEA citizen who is a spouse or child of an EEA or UK or Swiss citizen and has a stamp 4 or a Stamp 5 visa.

Use of Data - all personal data and the information submitted for this application will be used solely for the purpose of this campaign, after which it will be deleted in line with our General Data Protection Regulation Policy and data retention schedule. All information will be treated with the strictest confidence and accessed only by those involved directly in the campaign.

The Marine Institute is an organisation that champions Diversity, Inclusion & Equality for all. We encourage and welcome applications from anyone interested in this role.

Please do advise if there are any special accommodations required for the recruitment process. We are here to help you access opportunities with us.