Research contract at the Environmental Biotechnology Research Group (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain)

Position Characteristics
6 months contract at the BIOGROUP (www.usc.es/biogroup) to join the LIFE SEACAN project team.
Salary = 1,173 €/month and 14 pays/year, i.e. 16,422 €/year.
Working hours = full-time (i.e. 35) hours/week)
Start date = May the 2nd 2019

The LIFE SEACAN project (*Website: www.life-seacan.eu)*
LIFE SEACAN Project aims to demonstrate the potential of two innovative biofilm-based technologies (aerobic granular sludge and hybrid bioreactors) to decrease the impact of industrial activity on marine ecosystems. LIFE SEACAN prototype will be implemented in a representative fish cannery industry located in Galicia, where almost 80% of Spanish fish canning industries are gathered. The potential benefits over marine environment preservation will be quantified and evaluated in Rías Baixas, the most adequate environment for a reliable demonstration.
The main objective of this project is to reduce the pollution in marine ecosystems caused by fish canneries effluents due to their both organic matter and nitrogen load. Biofilm-based treatments will be applied in order to improve the cannery effluent quality and its impact will be assessed within the marine environment. This project is funded by the European Commission through LIFE14 programme with a total budget of 1.8 M€ and will be extended from September 2015 to October 2019. The project partners are: Cetaqua (leads), USC and UVigo.

Description of the position
The hired person is expected to carry out the environmental assessment, by means of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), of the novel technologies developed within the project as well as to compare them to the conventional technologies for canning wastewaters.

Required skills and experience
• University master degree in Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Science, or similar.
• Experience in research-like activities (e.g. demonstrated in the form of master thesis work) and/or sound background in LCA methodology and related tools/software;
• Independent, self-responsible and well-structured working style;
• Teamwork-oriented and enjoyment of inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation;
• Very good communication skills as well as proficiency in written and spoken English language

Selection process
Candidatures must be sent to almudena.hospido@usc.es (subject: "LIFE SEACAN contract") before March the 14th at 2.00pm

Candidatures should include the following documents:

- Motivation letter (max. 1 page), where the contact details as well as the reasons why the candidate should be selected are described.
- Curriculum Vitae.

Selection process will comprise the following steps:

1. Candidatures evaluation, including the academic records and the suitability of the candidate to the profile and requirements of the application will be checked. Step 1 accounts for 50% of the final evaluation and candidates achieving less than 40% will be disregarded.
2. Test: Candidates who pass the first stage will be invited to perform a screening test with the aim of assessing the candidate's ability to develop a research career as well as reading and writing skills in English. Step 2 accounts for 25% of the final evaluation and candidates achieving less than 15% will be disregarded.
3. Interview: Candidates who pass the second stage will be invited to perform a personal interview where, among other elements, his/her oral English skills will be evaluated. Step 3 accounts for 25% of the final evaluation.

The selected candidate will be invited to sign the research contract and a waiting list with two candidates will be defined. No selected candidates will be also informed.
If no suitable candidate is identified, the position will be considered deserted.

Future outlook
If the objectives of the position are successfully fulfilled, by the end of the contract the selected candidate will be offered a PhD position (i.e. 3 years) on the Application and Development of Life Cycle based tools for high loaded wastewater treatment under the supervision of Ass. Prof. Almudena Hospido[1] and Dr. Lluis Corominas[2].

[1] http://www.usc.es/biogroup/users/almudena-hospido
[2] http://www.icra.cat/noticies/lluis-corominas/323