

Located in the heart of Europe, the European XFEL is a unique, international research facility that uses X-ray free-electron laser technology, enabling groundbreaking research in fields from molecular biology to physics. As one of the most advanced research facilities in the world, the European XFEL offers an inspiring and dynamic work environment in which pioneering science and technological excellence intersect.

The European XFEL GmbH is seeking an innovative and visionary Scientific Director to lead its Operations and Data Division. This is a pivotal position within a premier global research facility dedicated to pushing the boundaries of scientific knowledge with unmatched precision and scope. This strategic position is also central to ensuring European XFEL's scientific and technological leadership as XFEL enhances their operations to achieve world-class excellence in X-ray science.

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## Scientific Director for Operations and Data (m/f/d)

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### The role:

As part of the European XFEL Management Board, which includes a Chairperson, an Administrative Director (both acting as Managing Directors), and three Scientific Directors, you will help steer the strategic direction of the operations, including big data management. Alongside two other Scientific Directors, the Director for Operations and Data leads one of three scientific divisions within European XFEL, starting at the latest on 1 January 2027: Operations and Data, Development and Instrumentation, and Science and Experiments. Together, you will shape user-focused operation with a strong commitment to scientific excellence and impact.

The position of Scientific Director for Operations and Data is key as European XFEL transitions into its full operational phase, while implementing comprehensive strategically important programs and preparing for a future facility upgrade in parallel. Your role will be essential in defining and implementing robust user operation and data strategies to ensure that the European XFEL remains at the forefront of scientific discovery.

### Key responsibilities:

- **User Operation Leadership:** Oversee and manage all aspects of user operation, driving successful experiment outcomes and impactful scientific contributions.
- **Strategic Resource Coordination:** Coordinate cross-divisional resources to create optimal conditions for experiment programs and enhance overall facility operations.
- **Scheduling and Collaboration:** Optimize the scheduling of experiments and collaborate closely with the accelerator team at DESY to align resources and efforts.
- **Data Science and Innovation:** Coordinate the facility's data science initiatives, exploring how AI and ML can enhance experiment outcomes and proposing new, efficient operation modes.
- **Enhanced User Experience:** Continuously improve user experience, fostering efficient operations and impactful experiment campaigns.

### What we are looking for:

The ideal candidate will be an outstanding scientist (Ph.D. in natural sciences) with substantial experience in managing groups in a large-scale scientific facility, particularly in photon science.

### Key qualifications:

- **Scientific Expertise:** Advanced background in X-ray photon science, with a strong vision for integrating data science to maximize scientific output, thus increase facility impact.
- **Leadership Skills:** Proven track record in managing diverse teams across divisions, with the ability to inspire and motivate teams toward common goals.
- **Collaborative Spirit:** Ability to work as a committed team player, especially, within the Management Board, supporting a collaborative and productive work environment.
- **Innovative Approach:** Creative problem-solving skills and the ability to improve existing processes.
- **Effective Communication:** Strong communication skills and the ability to inspire and engage staff and other stakeholders across all levels.
- Fluency in English, the working language at European XFEL, is essential

## Why European XFEL?

European XFEL offers a unique work environment, combining cutting-edge technology, groundbreaking research, and an international community dedicated to scientific excellence. Joining the team means you will play a key role in advancing scientific discovery, working in an inspiring facility with a global impact.

If you are a dedicated scientist with a strong passion for innovation and leadership, you are invited to apply to lead the Operations and Data Division and shape the future of European XFEL. Please contact the Kienbaum consulting team Sabine Dreissig via +49 40 32 57 79-23 or Jonas Smidt via +49 30 8801 98-17. Discretion and confidentiality are given. Please apply via [Kienbaum Jobs](#) by Jobs by **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, quoting the **reference number 44767** and your full application documents (cover letter and detailed CV, copies of certificates and your earliest possible starting date).

Information on how your data is handling can be found [here](#).

**Kienbaum Consultants International GmbH**