ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR for OCEANIC and ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (OAR)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Silver Spring, Maryland

Client:

NOAA's research is conducted through the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), a $450M organization with 800 staff and 800 contractors through academic partnerships. OAR is the driving force behind NOAA environmental products and services that protect life and property and promote sustainable economic growth. Research, conducted by programs within NOAA and through collaborations outside NOAA, focuses on enhancing our understanding of environmental phenomena such as tornadoes, hurricanes, climate variability, changes in the ozone layer, El Niño/La Niña events, fisheries productivity, ocean currents, deep sea hydrothermal vents, and coastal ecosystem health. NOAA research also develops innovative technologies and observing systems. The NOAA Research network consists of internal research laboratories, programs for Undersea Research and Ocean Exploration, a grants program through the Climate Program Office, research, education, and extension at Sea Grant universities and programs, and Cooperative Joint Institutes with academia. Through NOAA and its academic partners, thousands of scientists, engineers, technicians, and graduate students participate in furthering our knowledge of natural phenomena that affect the lives of us all.

NOAA's research serves diverse customers. The average citizen benefits through earlier warnings of threatening weather, healthier coasts and fisheries, or a broader understanding of environmental processes. The private sector uses NOAA data to make business decisions and also employs technology developed and transferred by NOAA scientists. Federal agencies, state governments, and local authorities rely on NOAA research expertise for the sound scientific basis of crucial policy decisions related to environmental protection and restoration strategies. NOAA researchers are recognized as international leaders on oceanic, atmospheric, and environmental issues. With their international counterparts, NOAA scientists contribute to the understanding and assessment of issues such as ozone depletion and climate variability which must be addressed worldwide to ensure success.

For more information about OAR see: http://www.oar.noaa.gov/. For more information about NOAA, see: http://www.noaa.gov/.

Overview:
The Assistant Administrator (AA) for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research reports to the Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The position also is responsible for closely consulting with the Under Secretary, Assistant Secretaries and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and other senior NOAA leadership and staff, and the Assistant Administrators of other NOAA components to keep abreast of Agency research needs and opportunities. The position promotes research programs and activities that will strengthen Agency science and its value to the public. An integral member of the NOAA leadership team, the AA for OAR also serves on the NOAA Executive Committee (NEC), the highest level executive management body within NOAA, through which NOAA senior leadership provide advice and counsel on high-level operation and management issues and NOAA-wide policy.

The AA will review research and development activities across NOAA and advise the Office of the Under Secretary on the need for, and efficacy of, NOAA research and technology development efforts. The AA will also promote the transfer of research results and new technology to others within and outside of NOAA, as well as represent NOAA in Department interagency groups on technology transfer and research and technology applications. The AA will assist the Under Secretary in determining the most effective utilization of the Agency's scientific resources, guiding the research portfolio of NOAA. This includes participating in an oversight role for the Agency's research and development planning and budgeting, and reviews of Agency programs to evaluate their scientific merit, identify problems and pathways toward solutions, critical technical issues, and progress of programs to ensure the Agency's specific objectives are met. The AA will maintain an overview of NOAA's scientific programs including collaborative efforts with other Line Offices, countries and international agencies.

Key Responsibilities:

As Assistant Administrator for OAR, the incumbent is responsible for the direction and administration of all activities of OAR, maintaining surveillance over operations and ensuring the timely and adequate implementation of established goals and programs. The AA is responsible for the discharge of the following essential organizational functions to strengthen the preeminence and value of NOAA science and services for the public good:

1. Leading a coordinated research program that ensures OAR's compatibility and effectiveness in serving NOAA's programmatic needs over both the short and long-term.

2. Conducting and managing research to promote a better understanding of the atmospheric, coastal, oceanic, climatic, and geophysical processes that underlie the services and products of NOAA.

3. Maintaining oversight and portfolio planning and execution responsibilities along with the AAs of each corresponding Line Office, for the research and development programs being executed in the National Weather Service, National Ocean Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service to ensure that research and development programs across NOAA and OAR are designed to meet the current and future requirements of these service components.
4. Promoting the transfer of research results and new technology to other components of NOAA, and both to and from scientific organizations outside NOAA.

5. Maintaining cognizance of, and engagement with, research and development programs being conducted by other relevant federal and/or university entities and ensuring that OAR research investments complement external efforts.

6. Supporting NOAA-wide planning, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting of the Agency’s research and development enterprise, and providing guidance for optimizing the portfolio at near-term, mid-term, and long-term time frames.

7. Ensuring financial integrity through the OAR Chief Financial Officer with an integrated accounting and financial management system including financial reporting and internal controls.

8. Promoting scientific integrity and encouraging scientists throughout the organization to communicate science to their peers as well as to the media and non-scientific audiences to further scientific literacy and sound decision making.

Professional and Technical Qualifications (PTQs) (Candidates are required to respond to these in writing; in narrative form. Each response should be 1-2 pages in length.)

1. Broad background in science and/or engineering with experience in one or more of the following: atmospheric, climatic, oceanic, and/or environmental science.

2. Broad knowledge of the technological applications and policy issues that motivate oceanic and/or atmospheric research and ability to communicate scientific principles and the value of research to a variety to audiences.

3. Substantial experience in research administration and direction in area(s) relevant to OAR’s mission.

Education: Ph.D. required

Location: Silver Spring, MD

Compensation: To $179,700 plus eligibility of a one-time recruitment bonus of up to 25% of your salary as well as eligibility of a performance-based bonus of between 5-7%. Relocation expenses will be paid. This is a Senior Executive Service-level position.

EEO: JDG Associates recognizes that NOAA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All candidates will be considered without regard to race, color, age, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, or disability.

Deadline: To be considered, applications must be received no later than midnight, April 15, 2011.
Citizenship: U.S. Citizenship required.

Contact:

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JDG Associates, established in 1973, is a leading provider of executive recruiting services to federal/state/local government, non-profit organizations, trade associations, Fortune 1000 corporations, and a variety of government contractors.