All job descriptions NWO-I rewritten

The project review job classification system is drawing to a close. In this project, various jobs within NWO have been rewritten. The new job classification system was published at the end of January and will soon be submitted to the steering group. The new job classification system will become effective at the NWO-I office and the Institutes during the course of 2019.

Expansion of parental leave for the partner and expansion of adoption and foster care leave

On 1 January 2019, a new law came into force that increases parental leave from two days to the number of hours worked by the employee during a week, when the partner gives birth. This leave is fully paid and in consultation with the employee can be taken within four weeks after the birth. The adoption and foster care leave has also been extended, one week of unpaid leave.
Institute manager Annemieke Beers reflects on her first few months at SRON

She found the switch from agrotechnology and food sciences in Wageningen to space research quite a jump. Annemieke Beers wants to get to know SRON down to the finest details. One of the biggest challenges she faces together with SRON is the relocation of the Utrecht location to the campus of Leiden University in 2021. The provisional design is ready, the tendering process has just been completed, and from now on all parties are jointly working hard on the final design and the specifications. The actual construction will start in September. 'This is a good prospect. The new building is open and modern, made for meeting each other and will have a very different atmosphere.'

ARCNL moves

The offices moved just before the Christmas holidays and the laboratories will follow in the next few months. NWO Institute ARCNL located at the Amsterdam Science Park is moving next door to the new building Matrix VII. ARCNL is the biggest renter of space in the building that is owned by Matrix Innovation Center. During the construction of Matrix VII due consideration was given to the specific wishes of ARCNL for the laboratories. These are equipped with low vibration floors and a state-of-the-art climate management system. ARCNL is a public-private partnership between NWO, University of Amsterdam, VU Amsterdam and ASML, world leader in the production of lithography machines.

NWO establishes a network for LGBTI personnel

On 1 January 2019, NWO became a member of Workplace Pride, a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of lesbians, gays, transgenders and intersexuels (LGBTI) at workplaces around the world. In this context, NWO is organising the first NWO Pride network meeting on Tuesday, 2 April 2019. The informal meeting will be held at the Amsterdam Science Park and is open to all LGBTI employees of NWO and NWO-I and other interested persons.
Highlight ASTRON: the Netherlands will partner to build the largest radio telescope in the world

The Dutch Council of Ministers has decided that the Netherlands will be partner in the construction and management of the largest radio telescope in the world, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). NWO Institute ASTRON coordinates the Dutch participation in the SKA. The ambitious project will lead to major discoveries about the nature of our universe and answer longstanding questions. On 12 March 2019 the international partners, now including the Netherlands, will sign a treaty agreement in Rome. The 30 million Euros allocated by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is the basis for Dutch participation to realise the SKA.

News from the NWO Central Works Council: introducing Frank van Amerongen

The NWO Central Works Council (COR NWO) represents the interests of all NWO and NWO-I employees in consultation with the NWO executive board. This month you can read all about the upcoming Central Works Council elections and two themes the council is working on: the privacy legislation GDPR and the Implementation Regulations. We also introduce COR NWO member Frank van Amerongen, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at NWO Institute DIFFER.
Calendar: on 17 April you can take a look behind the scenes at ASTRON (Connect@ASTRON)
Note 20 June (Connect@NIOZ Texel) and 26 September (Connect@ARCNL) in your diary

Are you sometimes (secretly) curious about signals from space? Would you like to see the largest low-frequency radio telescope in the world? Then reserve Wednesday, 17 April 2019 for a visit to the rural tranquillity of Dwingeloo. That is when Connect@ASTRON will be held. NWO-I will arrange transport.