

# Electrical Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

## Summary

ATF is a law enforcement agency in the U.S. Department of Justice that protects our communities from violent criminals/criminal organizations, illegal use/trafficking of firearms, illegal use/storage of explosives, acts of arson/bombings, acts of terrorism, and illegal diversion of alcohol/tobacco products. We partner with communities, industries, law enforcement, and public safety agencies to safeguard the public through information sharing, training, research, & technology. Visit [www.atf.gov](https://www.atf.gov)

## Overview

Accepting applications

### Open & closing dates

 02/16/2024 to 02/26/2024

### Salary

\$99,200 - \$153,354 per year

### Pay scale & grade

GS 12 - 13

### Location

1 vacancy in the following location:

 Beltsville, MD

### Remote job

No

### Telework eligible

Yes—as determined by the agency policy.

### Travel Required

25% or less - You may be expected to travel for this position.

### Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

### Appointment type

Permanent -

**Work schedule**

Full-time -

**Service**

Competitive

**Promotion potential**

13

**Job family (Series)**

[0850 Electrical Engineering](#)

**Supervisory status**

No

**Security clearance**

[Top Secret](#)

**Drug test**

Yes

**Position sensitivity and risk**

[Critical-Sensitive \(CS\)/High Risk](#)

**Trust determination process**

[Suitability/Fitness](#)

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**Announcement number**

24-OST-DE-12307739-KA

**Control number**

776921700

# This job is open to

**[The public](#)**

U.S. Citizens, Nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

**[Career transition \(CTAP, ICTAP, RPL\)](#)**

Federal employees who meet the definition of a "surplus" or "displaced" employee.

**Clarification from the agency**

Applications will be accepted from all U.S. citizens.

# Duties

This position is located in the Fire Research Laboratory (FRL) within the Office of Science and Technology (OST) in Beltsville, Maryland.

The primary purpose of this position is to serve as a technical expert practitioner concerning the evaluation of products, equipment and components having electrical or electronic functions and mechanical features with regard to failure modes resulting in fire causation.

**GS-12:**

- Performs or assists in the performance of engineering, electrical and physical analyses, and tests to provide information requested.
- Receives physical evidence, reviews background material submitted with the evidence, along with pertinent agency regulations, Federal laws and regulations, manuals and scientific literature to determine the general approach necessary to develop the requested information.
- Interprets and evaluates the results of analyses to determine the validity and scientific significance based on a reasonable degree of scientific certainty and to ensure that all relevant questions are answered.
- Seeks guidance from senior engineers for unusual or complex cases and keeps the supervisor informed of possible controversy and progress.
- Prepares laboratory reports on the basis of the results when necessary.

**GS-13:**

- Investigates possible electrical malfunctions/failures or modifications to electrical and mechanical equipment and/or components and plans and implements tests to evaluate electrical equipment, components and products that may cause fire hazards and their effect on fire ignition, development and spread.
- Determines compliance with current electrical codes and standards.
- Examines a wide variety of physical evidence associated with increasingly complex types of cases and uses judgment in evaluating evidence received and determining the most effective method to use for examining different types of evidence.
- Provides expert testimony on the basis of examinations and advises prosecutors on the appropriate approach to use in presenting scientific testimony.
- Prepares laboratory reports on the basis of the results when necessary and provides investigators with written and/or oral presentations of test results.

# Requirements

## Conditions of Employment

The qualification requirements listed below must be met by the closing date of the announcement.

**This is a non-bargaining unit position.**

**MOBILITY PLAN:** New employees hired pursuant to this vacancy announcement must sign a mobility agreement. The purpose of ATF's mobility policy is to enhance career development and progression, and achieve mission and business effectiveness. To accomplish these objectives, the mobility plan will facilitate the movement of employees through special short-term assignments or permanent reassignments throughout the Bureau. Applicants who decline to sign a mobility agreement, as required, will be removed from the hiring process.

**Key Requirements:**

1. Must be U.S. Citizen or National
2. May be required to serve a one year probationary period.
3. Pass drug screening and subject to random drug test.
4. Suitable for Federal employment determined by background investigation.

## Qualifications

To be eligible for the position, you must meet the **Basic Education Requirement** for a **GS-0850 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER**. Please refer to the education section of this announcement concerning the positive degree requirements.

In addition to meeting the basic education requirement above, you must also meet the experience qualification requirements listed below:

**Specialized experience** is demonstrated experience, which has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to perform successfully the duties of this position. Experience must be in the normal line of progression or must be related to the work of the position advertised and must be reflected in resume.

**To qualify for the GS-12**, candidates must also have at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level GS-11. **Specialized experience for the position includes:**

- Performing or assisting in the performance of engineering, electrical and physical analyses, and tests to provide information requested; and
- Investigating possible electrical failures, modifications, or misuse of electrical and mechanical equipment and or components, and
- Using judgment, initiative, and resourcefulness in deviating from established methods to develop new approaches and methods; and
- Determining compliance with current electrical codes and standards; and
- Interpreting, evaluating and analyzing the results of examinations and preparing laboratory reports on the basis of the results.

**To qualify for the GS-13**, candidates must also have at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level GS-12. **Specialized experience for the position includes:**

- Performing difficult fire investigations and analyses involving a variety of highly complex procedures, examinations, and tests; and
- Operating and interpreting the instruments necessary to analyze electrical evidence from complex cases; and
- Adapting and modifying established procedures and methods to perform the appropriate analysis determined as necessary; and
- Exercising the highest level of independent judgment in ensuring analytical data is valid and consistent, if results are to be accurate and reliable; and
- Expressing ideas and facts, both orally and in writing and effectively present analytical results in a court of law and withstands vigorous cross examination.

**Please do not cut and paste the position description, specialized experience or occupational assessment questionnaire from this announcement into your resume, as this will not be considered a demonstration of your qualifications for this position.**

The **Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP)** provides eligible displaced Federal competitive service employees with selection priority over other candidates for competitive service vacancies. If your agency has notified you in writing that you are a displaced employee eligible for ICTAP consideration, you may receive selection priority if: 1) this vacancy is within your ICTAP

eligibility; 2) you apply under the instructions in this announcement; and 3) you are found well-qualified for this vacancy. To be well qualified, you must satisfy all qualification requirements for the vacant position and rate equivalent to the Silver (minimum score of 85) or better category using established category rating criteria. You must provide proof of eligibility with your application to receive selection priority. Such proof may include a copy of your written notification of ICTAP eligibility or a copy of your separation personnel action form. Additional information about ICTAP eligibility is at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/federal-employees/career-transition/>

The **Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP)** provides eligible surplus and displaced competitive service employees in the Department of Justice with selection priority over other candidates for competitive service vacancies. If your Department of Justice component has notified you in writing that you are a surplus or displaced employee eligible for CTAP consideration, you may receive selection priority if: 1) this vacancy is within your CTAP eligibility, 2) you apply under the instructions in this announcement, and 3) you are found well-qualified for this vacancy. To be well qualified, you must satisfy all qualification requirements for the vacant position and rate equivalent to the Silver (minimum score of 85) or better category using established category rating criteria. You must provide a copy of your written notification of CTAP eligibility with your application. Additional information about CTAP eligibility is at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/federal-employees/career-transition/>

**Veteran Preference:** If you are entitled to veteran preference, you should indicate the type of veteran preference you are claiming on your résumé.

In order to verify your veteran preference entitlement, please submit a copy of the Member Copy 4 of your DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty); official statement of service from your command if you are currently on active duty; or other official documentation (e.g., documentation of receipt of a campaign badge or expeditionary medal) that shows your military service was performed under honorable conditions.

In addition, if you are a disabled veteran, a Purple Heart recipient, or widow/widower of a veteran, the spouse of a disabled veteran or the natural mother of a disabled or deceased veteran, you must submit the October 2013 Revised Standard Form (SF) 15, "Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference," and the other required documentation identified on the reverse side of the SF-15 to support your preference claim.

Although veteran preference points are not assigned under the category rating procedures described under "How You Will Be Evaluated," veteran preference eligibles are listed ahead of non-veterans within each category for which they are qualified.

If you are a 30% or more disabled veteran, you may be eligible to use leave under the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015. This act grants leave for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for a disability instead of using regular sick. For additional information see: [Disabled Veteran Leave](#)

## Education

**BASIC REQUIREMENT:** To be eligible for the position, you must meet the Basic Education Requirement for a **GS-0850 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER** series as noted listed below:

**A. Degree: Engineering.** To be acceptable, the program must: To be acceptable, the program must: (1) lead to a bachelor's degree in a school of engineering with at least one program accredited by ABET; or (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: (a) statics, dynamics; (b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); (c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; (d) thermodynamics; (e) electrical fields and circuits; (f) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and (g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics. -OR-

**B. Combination of Education and Experience:** College-level education, training, and/or technical experience that furnished (1) a thorough knowledge of the physical and mathematical sciences underlying engineering, and (2) a good understanding, both

theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their applications to one of the branches of engineering. The adequacy of such background must be demonstrated by one of the following:

1. **Professional Registration or Licensure** -- Current registration as an Engineer Intern (EI), Engineer in Training (EIT), or licensure as a Professional Engineer (PE) by any State, the District of Columbia, Guam, or Puerto Rico. -OR-
2. **Written Test** -- Evidence of having successfully passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination or any other written test required for professional registration by an engineering licensure board in the various States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.-OR-
3. **Specified Academic Courses** -- Successful completion of at least 60 semester hours of courses in the physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences and that included the courses specified in the basic requirements under paragraph A. The courses must be fully acceptable toward meeting the requirements of an engineering program as described in paragraph A.-OR-
4. **Related Curriculum** -- Successful completion of a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree in an appropriate scientific field, e.g., engineering technology, physics, chemistry, architecture, computer science, mathematics, hydrology, or geology, may be accepted in lieu of a bachelor's degree in engineering, provided the applicant has had at least 1 year of professional engineering experience acquired under professional engineering supervision and guidance. Ordinarily there should be either an established plan of intensive training to develop professional engineering competence, or several years of prior professional engineering-type experience, e.g., in interdisciplinary positions. (The above examples of related curricula are not all-inclusive.)

There is no substitution of education for experience at the GS-13 level.

For more information on how to meet the Basic Requirements please visit: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0800/files/all-professional-engineering-positions-0800.pdf>

All academic degrees and coursework must be completed at a college or university that has obtained accreditation or pre-accreditation status from an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For a list of schools that meet this criteria, see [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

## Additional information

Experience must be in the normal line of progression or must be related to the work of the position advertised and must be reflected in resume.

**Notice to Prospective Employees of Ethical Obligations from ATF's Human Resources Operations Division.** Please click on the following link to read important information. DOJ Notice to Prospective Employees of Ethical Obligations [Notice to Prospective Employees of Ethical Obligations](#)

**Selective Service:** If you are a male applicant born after December 31, 1959, you must certify that you have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under the Selective Service Law. See [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)

**EEO Statement:** The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a parent, genetic information, disability, age, membership or non-membership in an employee organization, or on the basis of personal favoritism. Applicants who believe they have been subjected to discrimination, or retaliation for participating in EEO activity or for opposing discrimination, should contact the ATF's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity at (202) 648-8760 within 45 calendar days of when the alleged harm occurred.

Please click on the following link to read important information. Department of Justice EEO Policy Statement <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/page/file/1393306/download>

**DIVERSITY Statement:** "As the federal agency whose mission is to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans, the Department of Justice is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment. To build and retain a workforce that reflects the diverse experiences and perspectives of the American people, we welcome applicants from the many communities, identities, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, abilities, religions, and cultures of the United States who share our commitment to public service."

**Reasonable Accommodation Statement:** ATF provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the job application and hiring process, and you meet the eligibility requirements listed above, please notify the human resources specialist listed on the vacancy announcement, or contact the ATF's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity at (202) 648-8760 or send an email to [reasonableaccommodations@atf.gov](mailto:reasonableaccommodations@atf.gov). The decision on granting a reasonable accommodation is handled on a case-by-case basis. "Federal Regulations state no ATF employee, his/her spouse, or his/her minor child shall have, directly or indirectly, any financial interest, including compensated employment, stock, or proprietary interest in the alcohol, tobacco, firearms or explosives industries. You should be aware that you may be asked to relinquish any ownership of or interests in the alcohol, tobacco, firearms or explosives industries before a determination can be made whether access to ATF information, information technology systems, and/or facilities can be authorized."

*Additional vacancies may be filled from this vacancy announcement.*

## Benefits

[Review our benefits](#)

## How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

We will review your resume <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/application/documents/resume/what-to-include/> and supporting documentation to ensure you meet the minimum qualification requirements. If you meet the minimum qualifications, we will use your responses to the assessment questionnaire to place you in one of three categories based on your experience, education, and/or training. The assessment questionnaire is designed to measure your ability in the following competencies:

- Compliance
- Electrical Engineering
- Oral Communication
- Problem Solving
- Research
- Written Communication

If you meet the minimum qualifications, you will be placed in one of the following categories:

1. **Gold:** Applicants possessing experience that substantially exceeds the minimum qualifications of the position and demonstrate high proficiency in all of the critical competencies, including all Selective Placement Factors (SPF), as determined by the job analysis.
2. **Silver:** Applicants possessing experience that exceeds the minimum qualifications of the position and demonstrates acceptable proficiency in all of the critical competencies, including all SPF's as determined by the job analysis.
3. **Bronze:** Applicants possessing experience that meets the minimum qualifications of the position and demonstrate basic proficiency in most of the critical competencies, including all SPFs as determined by the job analysis.

If you are best qualified, you may be referred to the hiring manager for consideration and may be called for an interview.

**Candidates within the Gold category who are eligible for veterans' preference will receive selection priority over candidates without veterans' preference.**

To preview the Assessment Questionnaire, click <https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/12307739>

## Required Documents

- **Resume** showing relevant work/volunteer experience, education, and training. Include the start and end dates (**from month/date/year to month/date/year**) and the number of hours per week worked/volunteered. Your resume serves as the basis for qualification determinations and must support your answers to the completed online assessment questions.
- Veterans' preference documentation (DD-214, Member Copy 4 or one that shows , Revised October 2013 SF-15 [https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf\\_fill/sf15.pdf](https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/sf15.pdf) and VA letter, if applicable. **Note: The Revised October 2013 SF-15 is the latest copy and all others are not usable.**
- CTAP/ICTAP documentation, if applicable.
- An unofficial college transcript (Note: If you are selected for this position, official transcript(s) will be required prior to your first day.) (Use if education is being credited for the purpose of meeting minimum qualification requirements or if grade point average is being used to determine superior academic achievement.)
- It is your responsibility to ensure all documents are received on time and the materials are legible. If applying on-line poses a hardship to any applicant, please contact us at the telephone number listed on this announcement. Applicants **MUST CONTACT US PRIOR TO THE CLOSING DATE** to speak to someone who can provide assistance for on-line submission. Requests for extensions will not be granted. Paper applications submitted without prior approval from the agency point of contact may be handled as incomplete. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** If your contact information changes after the closing date of this vacancy announcement, update your profile information in MYUSAJOBS as well as contact the Human Resources Specialist listed on this vacancy announcement to ensure you can be contacted throughout the selection process.

Prior to selection, the candidate may be required to provide an original copy of any supporting/ validating documentation as well as other documentation to verify eligibility. All required materials must be uploaded using the supporting documentation instructions described in the announcement.

Failure to provide the required documentation by the closing date of this announcement will result in elimination of further consideration for this position.

## How to Apply

Please read the entire announcement and all instructions before you begin an application. To apply for this position, you must complete the initial online application, to include the initial online assessment and submission of the required documentation specified in the **Required Documents** section. You must submit a complete application package by 11:59 PM (ET) on 02/26/2024 to be considered. The application process is as follows:

1. To begin the application process, click the **Apply Online** button.
2. Answer the questions presented in the application and attach all necessary supporting documentation.
3. Click the **Submit Application** button prior to 11:59 PM (ET) on the announcement closing date.
4. After submitting an online application, you will be notified whether or not you are required to take additional online assessments through the USA Hire Competency Based Assessment system. This message will be delivered to you via email notification. The email may be routed to your "Spam" or "Junk" folder.
5. If you are asked to take the USA Hire Competency Based Assessments, you will be presented with a unique URL to access the USA Hire system. Access to USA Hire is granted through your USAJOBS login credentials. Be sure to review all instructions prior



to beginning your USA Hire Assessments. [Click here for Computer System Requirements](#)

6. Note, set aside at least 3 hours to take these assessments; however, most applicants complete the assessments in less time. If you need to stop the assessments and continue at a later time, you can re-use the URL sent to you via email and also found in your USAJOBS account under the **Track this application** link for the corresponding application.

To update your application, including supporting documentation, at any time during the announcement open period return to your USAJOBS account. There you will find a record of your application, the application status, and an option to **Edit My Application**. This option will no longer be available once the announcement is closed.

To verify the status of your application both during and after the announcement open period, log into your USAJOBS account. Your applications will appear on the **Welcome** page. Navigate to the job application and click **Track this application** to view your application status. The link will take you to the hiring agency application system, which has the most up-to-date status of your application. There you can review any notifications sent to you related to this application, including the invitation to take the USA Hire assessment. The **Application Status** will appear along with the date your application was last updated. For information on what each **Application Status** means click [here](#)

## Agency contact information

 Keysha Alston

### Email

[KEYSHA.M.ALSTON@USDOJ.GOV](mailto:KEYSHA.M.ALSTON@USDOJ.GOV)

### Address

Office of Science and Technology  
99 New York Ave., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20226  
US

[Learn more about this agency.](#)

## Next steps

Based on your application and your responses to the application questionnaire, you may be presented with instructions on how to access the USA Hire system to complete the online assessments. The online assessments must be completed within 48 hours following the close of this announcement. You will have the opportunity to request a testing accommodation for the assessment should you have a disability covered under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

Your assessment results will be kept on record for one year and used toward future positions for which you might apply that require the same assessments.

## Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is set up to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)

[Financial suitability](#)

[New employee probationary period](#)

[Privacy Act](#)

[Reasonable accommodation policy](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[Signature and false statements](#)

[Social security number request](#)