

The University of Caen (laboratory of marine biology and physiology of marine organisms LBBM/PE2M – Université de Caen/ifremer) and the Université of La Rochelle (CRELA, UMR 6217) is seeking applications for a postdoctoral position in biochemistry and sugar composition of EPS secreted by microphytobenthic diatoms. The successful candidate will contribute to an ongoing French research program VASIREMI assessing the trophic significance of microbial biofilms in intertidal mudflats. The candidate will study the metabolism and biochemical composition of EPS in relation to environmental composition in order better understand the environmental effects and the culture method on exopolymer production (dynamics, change in composition, adherence and metabolism) by marine benthic diatoms. The expected outcomes will allow further 1) to assess the carbon flow from the various fractions of EPS to bacterial communities and 2) the potential adhering properties of the different fraction EPS and the effect of the age of the biofilm (and associated nutrient limitation) on sediment erodability. The ideal candidate will have experience with microbial cultures, photosynthesis of diatoms (PAM technology) and standard molecular analysis (GC-MS; HPLC, inhibitor studies) and will gain new skills in physical/biological coupling using instrument measuring the erodability of sediment (ERIS device).

For more information about our research program and the postdoctoral application, please contact Dr Francis Orvain if you are interested in this position. Candidates should send a letter of interest describing their qualifications relevant to the project and past research experience, their full CVs, two relevant publications or outputs of their research activity, and arrange for two letters or recommendation to be sent to both of the following addresses (electronic submission is preferred): F.Orvain@iutcaen.unicaen.fr and cdupuy@univ-lr.fr

Duration of the contract: 15 months

Start of the study: May-July 2007

Salary: 15 * 3286 = 49294 Euros

Application deadline : 1 March 2007.