

Defence Innovation Manager

OPPORTUNITY

Ainira Industries is currently seeking applicants for Defence Innovation Manager for its growing verticals and strategic programs. We are looking for a highly confident senior engineer and an astute commercial manager with a keen eye for design and a style that fosters innovation, collaboration, and accountability.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting to CTO, the Defence Innovation Manager will provide innovation and commercialisation advice to Engineering teams, particularly the Space and Defence division, to help the Company understand defence capability needs and innovation priorities, and support their ability to contribute to defence innovation requirements. We are seeking a highly motivated individual with senior management and commercial business experience in this sector to lead and manage the Innovation Section team and activities, and ensure consistency of advice and program continuity.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Primary point of contact for Space and Defence for North America and Middle East (current operations)
- Identify, establish, and operate technology assets that accelerate product development in support of the company's long-term innovation and commercialisation strategy for Space/Aerospace and Defence
- Liaise with external advisers to ensure seamless client experience and assist the defence engineering team with articulating its innovation priorities
- Facilitate connections between the Company, small to medium businesses, and research organisations
- Provide liaison support to government agencies, industry associations and other stakeholders to ensure a coordinated approach to defence industry
- Support senior management engagement with the Department of Defence, Vice Chief of the Defence Force Group, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, in the jurisdictions where we are operating
- Provide strategic product engineering direction and thought leadership based on global best practice and trends, and ensure engineering product design and specifications are built to the highest standards
- Drive and collaborate across the organisation to introduce and adopt new technologies to enable efficiencies or new opportunities
- Provide technical leadership and resources with engineering and manufacturing expertise to peers in order to coach and uplift the capabilities (development, operations) of each product engineering team
- Work collaboratively with engineering design and process architecture teams to mature delegation of architecture and engineering decisions
- Enable team-based governance across product engineering teams and acceleration of shared assets where appropriate
- Meet regularly with direct reports to review performance, recommendations and reports, and identify any issues and set expectations of goals

- Represent the organisation at official occasions, in negotiations, at conventions, seminars, public hearings and forums, and liaising between areas of responsibility
- Maintaining awareness of the competitive aerospace and defence sector, market landscape, expansion opportunities, and industry developments
- Prepare and arrange reports, budgets and forecasts and presenting them to governing bodies

SKILLS and ABILITIES

- BSc/MSc in Aerospace, Electric, Mechanical, Production/Process Engineering or equivalent is required
- Outstanding tertiary post graduate qualifications in business administration and management
- Understanding of the defence sector both within the US, NATO, AUKUS, and abroad
- Strong leadership skills and the ability to recruit, retain, and inspire a top team of commercial innovators
- Proven experience in successfully commercialising industry technologies and/or services, as well as proven commercial business experience and success at a strategic and operational level
- Experience with building and maintaining extensive networks with multinational companies, small and medium enterprises and industry associations
- Advanced stakeholder, relationship and client management and engagement skills and experience, including national and international export networks
- Currently hold or be able to acquire a high-level security clearance within a reasonable timeframe
- Strong project management skills a must – 5 years-plus of experience managing engineering teams and successfully bringing high volume, consumer oriented, space/defence products to mass production
- Outstanding communications skills also a must – succinct and to the point in one-on-one, small group and public speaking events for a variety of content (e.g. presentations, proposals, strategies etc.)
- Demonstrated high degree of initiative, creative problem solving, attention to detail, and calm under fire
- Demonstrated track record of developing and launching successful, innovative products; has a thorough understanding of a variety of manufacturing processes and how they affect design decisions
- Able to engage effectively with others on the senior management team in sales, product, manufacturing, finance, and legal, as well as to presenting effectively at Executive Management and Board level
- Travel domestic and internationally 25% of the time – EU, US, GCC, SE Asia, and Australia in particular

COMPENSATION

This is a senior role within the business and the compensation package, which includes company stock, will be structured to reflect the experience and expertise of the successful candidate.

APPLY

Click “Apply” below or use form in the Contact section – quote the reference number HR-SDA-0007. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Thank you for your interest.

Recruitment agencies, please note that no agency candidates will be accepted.