

Job Description – Environmental Applications Scientist

The company

Oxford HighQ is an exciting well-funded technology start-up spun-out from the University of Oxford in 2018, building upon over a decade of research. We are world-leading in the fabrication and exploitation of optical microcavities for highly sensitive measurements in the fields of nanoparticle and chemical analysis. In particular we are developing a low-cost, remote, real-time sensor for measuring pollutants in natural waterways, allowing targeted intervention to improve water quality and reduce the cost of managing water pollution. In collaboration with our industry partners, we will be deploying our prototype sensors in rivers and lakes throughout 2021, expanding to international beta-trials towards the end of the year.

The successful candidate will be joining a dynamic, young team at a relatively early stage of the company development and will have the opportunity to progress their professional and scientific skills in tandem with the growth of the business, in a supportive and scientifically-focussed environment.

The role

We are seeking a talented environmental scientist, ideally with experience in deploying water quality monitoring instrumentation. An understanding of deployment strategies/methodology and the ability to interpret the resulting data in a wider context is essential.

As an Applications Scientist, your role will be customer focussed, acting as the interface between technical and commercial considerations. A key part of this role will be to identify opportunities and engage with potential customers to better understand market-needs and work with our technical team to better address these. You will work with our customers and partners to deploy our prototype sensors, supported by our engineering team. You will analyse instrument data and prepare technical and application notes for customer engagement.

Ideally you will have industrial experience of running water monitoring projects in a commercial or regulatory context, and an understanding of the key stakeholders in the field of nutrient pollution. Alternatively, applications are welcomed from candidates with a strong allied or technical background or PhDs in a relevant field, ideally familiar with water-sensor deployment.

Key responsibilities

Commercial:

- Engage with key actors in the field of nutrient pollution in the UK and beyond, developing understanding of the industry structure and developing an internal database of water regulation authorities, water companies, and key subcontractors across the world
- Create customer traction and engagement to validate interest in the product
- Isolate key monitoring challenges of the water industry, providing feedback to the product managers and technical team
- Demonstrate and present to potential customers
- Arrange and run seminars and user groups
- Present at conferences

Technical:

- Gain a thorough understanding of Oxford HighQ's technology, especially in relation to existing capabilities within the market
- Lead deployments of instruments in catchment monitoring projects, working with our industry partners. Technical support will be provided by our core engineering and scientific teams.
- Analyse nutrient pollution data and write application notes - designing a programme of experiments and deployments to demonstrate core features of the technology
- Play a key role in developing and improving instrument design based on market understanding and feedback from deployments

Applicant Criteria:

- Experience in deploying water quality monitoring instruments and interpreting resulting data

- A working knowledge of the Water Framework Directive and related policies underpinning pollution management in UK and EU waterways
- Diligent, disciplined scientific approach
- Independent self-starter with excellent organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal relationship building skills with strong verbal and written communication skills. You should be comfortable communicating complex technical and commercial information in a clear and concise manner to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Applicants must have the permanent right to work in the UK and to travel internationally
- Full clean UK driving license

COVID-19 considerations:

To keep our employees as safe as possible, we have rigorous H&S protocols which we expect all staff to follow carefully. We work in 'bubbles' of no more than 2/3 people & provide masks, gloves, and hand sanitiser along with standard H&S equipment.

GDPR

We will only process the data of candidates we are actively considering for this role and for recruitment purposes only. We will store this data in a limited access applicant tracking system until the role is filled and will not share it with anyone else. When that period is over, we will either delete your data or ask you whether you agree to us keeping your information in our database for future roles. Our privacy policy is available on request.

Equality of opportunity

The Company is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants. We aim to create a working environment in which all individuals can make best use of their skills, free from discrimination or harassment, and in which all decisions are based on merit.

Job Type: Full-time, contract

Salary: £38,000.00-£40,000.00 per year

Job Reference ID: NS.AppsS.202008.03

Company Benefits include:

- Casual Dress
- Company Pension
- Life Insurance
- Sick Pay
- Store Discounts

How to Apply:

Submit your CV and cover letter which should refer specifically to how your experience meets the key responsibilities and criteria outlined.

Application deadline: 11/09/2020 @ 17:00hrs. Please be aware that if we find a suitable candidate prior to the deadline, we may close the job advert early.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE.