



Director, Materials Innovation

Application deadline: 27 November 2022

Position

Hours: Permanent position. Full time, part-time, flexi-time to be determined with right candidate

Location: Open – UK, EU, USA

Salary: Salary + Options – to be determined

Start date: Q1 2023

About OCEANIUM

OCEANIUM is a passionate and ambitious start-up driving systemic change, developing products from sustainably sourced seaweed, including innovative materials, cosmeceuticals, nutraceuticals and plant-based food ingredients to meet the growing, global and corporate demand.

Our mission is to develop and make products from sustainably sourced seaweed to benefit **People Health** and **Planet Health** – we are seaweed evangelists on a journey to 'Kelp the World®'.

We are inspired by creativity, thrive on innovation and are driven by environmental and social impact.

We make the market for sustainably farmed seaweed, which helps to mitigate ocean eutrophication, create 'blue' jobs, meet demand for biobased materials, and ensure food security. As impact is in our DNA, we measure and report our impact against six of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The role

As Materials Innovation Director, you will be the centre of knowledge and driving force behind our materials strategy and roadmap, breaking boundaries with our seaweed material innovations. This position would suit an experienced Materials Innovation Director who has worked in technical development as well as commercial development seeking a new challenge with innovative sustainable materials or an ambitious Materials Innovation Manager looking to dig in and step up.

Working with the CEO, CTO and Materials Innovation R&D team you will identify relevant channels and partners for our seaweed-based materials, identify and oversee development of materials and products for commercial partnerships and guide new opportunities.

Importantly, as OCEANIUM is an impact business, you will continuously seek opportunities for our materials to replace resource intensive products and work towards carbon neutrality for OCEANIUM.

The ideal candidate will be a strategic thinker, entrepreneurially minded, understand material technology, with strong commercial acumen and experience, passion for sustainability and experience to develop relationships with mission-aligned commercial partners. You will be confident working independently or cross-functionally with a diverse set of teams internally and externally to fuel and support new product concepts and strategic development efforts.

Responsibilities

- Develop the overall materials innovation and route to market strategy incorporating the execution and delivery of new materials, manage budgets, schedules and milestones, research/sourcing and commercialization.
- Identify and prioritize short, medium, and long-term sustainable material innovation opportunities and assess priority based on relevance to brand, consumer needs, commercial business opportunity and scalable environmental and industry impact.
- Identify, research, secure and maintain relationships with commercial partners to develop and introduce innovative new materials to meet their sustainability and performance criteria. Deliver programmes with commercial partners and ensure all deadlines and launch timelines are met.
- Drive ambitious timelines around material development and the introduction of new innovative materials, and develop and lead plan for materials scale-up.
- Contribute to research, implementation and reporting of material solutions impact, including collaboration on LCAs to maximize circularity potential of materials and to strive towards carbon neutrality.
- Research and maintain keen understanding of broader emerging seaweed industry best practices and emerging technologies and developments related to sustainable materials.
- Continually scan and assess competitive and consumer landscape to develop future-forward strategies around emerging materials.
- Align with the quality and compliance team on standards/testing procedures to ensure all material samples are prepared to appropriate standards.
- Liaise with other R&D team scientists and contractors to co-ordinate product analysis and reporting.
- Work with R&D team to prepare clear and concise written reports, presentations – including for investors and the board – and data and maintain fully traceable documentation.
- Contribute to grant proposals.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- Proven, relevant and impactful industry experience in materials development and commercialisation.
- Passionate about sustainability with an understanding of circular business models, LCAs.
- Sharp business acumen, strategic thinking, and analytical skills; proven ability to deliver on program KPIs and ROI goals.
- Strong project management and organization skills with ability to prioritize time and tasks and solve problems/remove obstacles to drive execution.
- Demonstrated ability to leverage real-time customer insight and analysis to drive customer-centric outcomes/innovation.
- "Thinking outside the box" approach, demonstrating the ability to challenge the status quo through innovation and drive a circular mindset.
- A thoughtful and authentic approach to people management with a strong emphasis on strengths-based leadership, collaborative alignment, and building trust.
- Excellent communication skills with both internal and external partners.
- Knowledge of material supply chains, sustainability and life cycles, (and seaweed-based materials as a plus).
- Experience in materials testing requirements, characterization, and data analytics.
- Ability to travel up to ~15-20% of the time, including international travel.

Next steps

If you have top-tier experience within materials development and commercialisation, a passion for innovation, the environment AND you want to make a real difference in the world, please send your cover letter, current CV, salary requirements and availability to oceaniumpeople@oceanium.co.uk. Only applications with a cover letter enclosed will be considered.

At OCEANIUM, we recognise the value of a diverse team and we are committed to and encourage applications from people with varied experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds. Reasonable adjustments are available to support candidates through the application and interview process. Please note all offers of employment are subject to eligibility to work in the relevant jurisdiction and satisfactory pre-employment security screening.