

POSITION: Innovation Management Specialist
LOCATION: Leeds & Sunderland
TYPE: Permanent

THE ORGANISATION

RTC is an independent, dynamic and highly successful organisation. We work with companies, individuals, clusters and the public sector to help regions create better and more, high value jobs. Established over 25 years ago, RTC has a trusted reputation for delivering services in innovation and business growth. We specialise in the commercialisation of new products and services to build more innovative and vibrant economies. We provide support at all stages of the innovation and intellectual property protection process at regional, national and European levels.

RTC is also a lead UK partner in the worlds' largest business support network - Enterprise Europe Network – and has established relationships with partners in Europe, Asia as well as North and South America. We currently have offices in Sunderland, Daresbury (Warrington) and Leeds.

THE POST

RTC are looking to recruit highly motivated and dynamic specialists in innovation management one in Leeds and one in Sunderland. The Innovation Management Specialists will identify and support small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to improve their innovation capacity. Working with each company, the Specialist will thoroughly analyse existing innovation management capabilities and barriers, then broker and/or deliver an action plan that significantly improves the client's innovation systems and practices (as defined by emerging EU quality standards), leading to increased business success.

Business success is measured in terms of bringing new products to market, creation of new jobs, introducing new products into the company for increased productivity, increased turnover etc.

The Innovation Specialists will join the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) team which operates across the North of England.

The successful candidate is likely to have a degree level (or equivalent) qualification, but the exact details of their academic background is less relevant than a good working knowledge of how to innovate and experience in the commercial sector at a senior level and/or in the provision of business support. Salary will be commensurate with skills and experience c.£35-£45k.



Key Responsibilities

- Identification of innovative and ambitious businesses with the most potential for growth;
- Holistic analysis of the company to gain an in depth understanding of innovation capacity and the potential for commercialising innovations, working with the client to prioritise issues and identify potential courses of action;
- Acting as a coach/mentor to support each company in the development of long term innovation management and commercialisation strategies;
- Creation of a bespoke company action plan that includes a range of support services from public and private providers alongside face to face delivery of training/workshops, delivery of expert modules.

The successful candidates will be based at one of the RTC offices in Sunderland or Leeds but will be required to regularly visit the other offices and travel to client SMEs across the North (and on occasion, the UK and wider European destinations).

THE PERSON

Skills

An excellent communicator, able to express ideas clearly, both verbally, face to face, by telephone and in written form, to actively listen, and précis information logically and accurately;

Training, mentoring and coaching experience;

Able to analyse and interpret business and financial plans;

Specialism in one or more of the following areas:

- Marketing & Sales
- Finance and funding, access to finance
- Leadership and change management
- Creative Thinking, Ideation
- Design sprints or service/product design
- Intellectual Property & commercialisation.



Knowledge & Experience

Knowledge of the full ideas development process – from idea to commercialised product/service. Be a credible innovation specialist with an excellent understanding of the innovation and internationalisation challenges faced by businesses;

Experience of working with high growth companies – have a track record of developing good personal relationships with senior management in client organisations;

Excellent knowledge of local, national and EU funding (including Innovate UK and H2020) and business support tools in the field of enterprise & innovation etc;

Well networked with a good understanding of the local business support infrastructure and with a wide range of business support specialists and a good reach into the local SME base.

Qualities

- Dynamic with drive and determination to make a difference;
- A good team player with a willingness to learn
- Flexible, open and positive
- An active influencer and problem solver

HOW TO APPLY

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to undertake this role, please forward your c.v. and letter of application, confirming current salary and benefits package to:

personnel@rtcnorth.co.uk

Closing Date: 18th August 2017

Interviews to be held on 24 August 2017



Background

Funded by both the European Commission and Innovate UK, EEN is an important tool in the EU's strategy to boost growth and jobs whilst also supporting Innovate UK's localisation agenda. EEN provides a direct route for SMEs to proactively build partnerships across 60+ countries to further their ambitions to innovate, grow and internationalise.

The Enterprise Europe Network helps SMEs:

- Innovate & internationalise
- Develop their business in new markets
- Source or license new technologies
- Obtain access to EU finance/funding
- Give feedback on European policy and legislation

EEN has close to 600 member organisations across the EU, and beyond and includes chambers of commerce and industry, technology centres, universities and regional government agencies.

RTC deliver the Innovate2Succeed programme under the EEN banner. The Programme is funded by Innovate UK and the European Regional Development Fund.

The Package

RTC is a dynamic medium sized independent technology transfer company. Its' ambition is to expand its offer and excellent reputation for delivering high quality projects across the North of England. Joining RTC at this exciting time affords an unparalleled opportunity to make a difference and be part of the economic growth of the North.

As a medium sized company, the teams work closely together, sharing skills, knowledge and experience which helps to create a thriving, healthy and fast moving, working environment.

The post benefits from flexi time, a generous holiday entitlement and contributory pension.

