

Project Engineer

Company Overview

OXIS Energy is a world-leading developer of next-generation batteries based on Lithium Sulfur (Li-S) chemistry, which has the potential to offer revolutionary improvements to energy storage technology. OXIS' cells offer twice the energy density of Li-ion technology and are therefore attractive for a diverse range of applications such as electric vehicles and aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and satellites.

Based within a technical business park in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside, OXIS is proud to have highly-experienced research and production development teams with a shared goal of developing the "next big thing" in energy storage technology.

The OXIS team has grown rapidly in the last 3 years and is currently working with numerous prestigious partners, both in the UK and internationally. We have a supportive culture and a dynamic and friendly working environment where everyone is committed to innovation.

Overview of Role

At OXIS Energy, we are looking for a Project Engineer to join our team. Reporting to the Head of Manufacturing, the successful applicant will be initially located at our main site within Culham Science Centre, with potential for relocation to our new plant in South Wales, which the Project Engineer will be responsible for commissioning. Initial projects will last 2 to 3 years with phased expansion projects up to 10 years.

The Project Engineer will be responsible for capital projects including, but not limited to, scope development, process design (e.g., process modelling, P&ID and PFD development), process and materials trials, management of outside engineering resources/contractors, cost estimating, project approval, procurement of equipment, executing Management of Change (MOC), development of commissioning procedures, and start-up. Under the direction of Head of Manufacturing and in collaboration with the project manager, you will successfully complete assigned work packages on schedule, within budget, and in accordance with engineering standards and procedures. The Project Engineer will respond to change and identify solutions to issues.

The project engineer should have a background in technical project delivery, business skills, management, budgeting and analysis. You will be required to manage several complex projects simultaneously while considering innovative, practical, cost effective strategies in the project planning based on complexity and business risk.

Job Specification

The candidate will be experienced or looking to develop in this role providing examples of similar roles they have held in another commercial organisation. The candidate will be a decisive, self-starter taking responsibility for delivering projects. The role will be hands on at times during equipment trials and commissioning and whilst generating documentation and training for handover of new equipment to the end user.

Main Responsibilities

Operational Responsibility

- Prepare for installation of new equipment in advance
- Help contractors, tradesmen and OEM's to interpret job designs, drawings and project plans
- Take responsibility for daily operations of field work activities and the organisation of contractors and sub-contractors.
- Provide direct supervision of contractors and sub-contractors as required in collaboration with the Construction and Design and Management team.
- Complete technical studies designed to answer specific questions from the design teams. Be hands on where required.
- Manage inter-discipline coordination and overall quality control of the work.
- Maintain product and company reputation by complying with regulations.
- Represent OXIS out in the field with effective 2-way communication between engineering, technical, construction, and project controls groups
- Establish strong, professional relationships with sources of technology including vendors and suppliers and other sources of applicable technologies

Project / Change Management

- Develop work package scope by reviewing proposals and plans; conferring with line management
- Budgeting, prepare bills of materials, assure the accuracy of financial forecasts. Manage overall project expenditures, cash flow and schedule to meet business expectations.
- Assist the project managers with Integrated scheduling for all stakeholders, forecasting by studying project plans and specifications; calculating time requirements; sequencing project elements
- Project execution of multiple simultaneous tasks, assign and lead additional resource as required by the project through negotiation with line management and other resource managers, raising issues to the programme board
- Review engineering deliverables, redline drawings, recommend actions and resolve problems
- Contribute to the project risk register, taking responsibility for issue resolution
- Develop and implement Project Quality Plans, including auditing work processes and deliverables for compliance, and for meeting agreed upon project quality requirements and expectations. Able to design, write and execute equipment qualifications to a recognisable standard.
- Ensures site personnel are staffed and preparing for commissioning and start-up of the new facilities, including training, procedure updates, maintenance PM records updates, etc.; ensures schedules are aligned with supply chain and operations/ maintenance needs, to determine when outages are available if necessary
- Provide regular project status reports, budget reports and trend tracking by collecting, analysing, and summarizing information and trends then recommending actions
- May direct others internally or internally to deliver the project

Project Deliverables - Take responsibility for generating project deliverables and training stakeholders for handover.

- Deliver a functional production facility and commission processes
- Chairing design and gate reviews and authorising stakeholder approved project progression
- Equipment installation, Commissioning reports, confirm performance by designing and conducting tests.
- Commissioning, Qualification, Validation (FAT, IQ, OQ, PQ) through to handover
- Process documentation with handover to operations via structured training
- Health, safety and environment files for the project for handover to the OXIS HSE department
- Planned and preventative maintenance plan and handover facilities and equipment to the facilities manager with structured training
- Ensure all operating permits are in place
- Create and maintain comprehensive project documentation

Other

- Maintains safe and clean working environment by enforcing procedures, rules, and regulations. Ensures excellence in adherence to HSE, export control, trade secret principles and other core values and standards, processes and procedures.
- Primary technical contact, liaising and understanding all aspects of the capital project.
- Demonstrate best practise in capital project delivery e.g. Prince 2, (ISPE) Good Engineering Practise or similar
- Act as a consultant and subject matter expert for the project
- Perform risk management to minimise project risks e.g. FMEA
- Engineering and design calculations
- Must be able to explain methods and concepts clearly.
- Maintain an acceptable level of quality in performing tasks

Skills and Experience:

Desired Competencies

- In order to be considered for this position candidates need to hold a formal Engineering based qualification i.e. HNC / HND / Degree. Candidates will be considered from Mechanical, Electrical or Process / Chemical Engineering backgrounds. In addition to this, candidates need to have proven Project Engineering / Management experience within a battery, pharmaceutical / chemical / food and beverage / coatings industry.
- Minimum 5 years engineering experience as project engineer managing a full project life-cycle in a manufacturing environment, or relevant experience
- Strong technical project management, financial and analytical skills
- Must be organised with excellent communications, interpersonal and leadership skills. An ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks independently in a changing environment to meet challenging business needs
- Documentation skills, ability to write reports, business correspondence, procedure manuals and training materials. Meticulous with high attention to detail to develop written instruction
- Good problem-solving skills and attention to detail with respect to contractual and technical aspects of a project. A creative problem solver with strong analytical abilities
- Ability to use a computer to create highly customized spreadsheets, charts and reports, and interpret data. Proficiency with Word, Excel, modelling and solid works software
- Knowledge of manufacturing methods/procedures, process improvement

- Technical Understanding. Must be capable of training and handing over projects to others
- Ability to create momentum, organising and managing diverse work assignments simultaneously and independently

Desired Experience

- Experience in battery manufacture or batch chemical manufacture, coatings or automated discrete assembly is desired
- Chemical/materials handling and processing in the battery industry
- Able to demonstrate from previous experience examples of equipment installation and the approaches taken including best practise
- Able to demonstrate from previous experience examples of setting up new production facilities and the approaches taken including best practise
- Technical drawing experience
- Professional engineering memberships
- Experience managing projects up to £10M

Candidates must live (or be prepared to relocate to) within commuting distance of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. A driving licence is essential as regular travel (and possibly overnight stays) will be required between Abingdon and South Wales.

A competitive salary is on offer plus excellent company benefits including 25 days holiday, additional leave over the Christmas holiday period, 5 paid carers' days, life assurance scheme, contributory pension and private healthcare scheme.

If you think you are the person we are looking for, please apply now!

We look forward to hearing from you.