

Lead Research Scientist

Full-time / Cambridge, UK

Job ID: LRS20231

1. OUR MISSION:

Promoting a future that is nature-inspired. We are a sustainable material science company dedicated to developing innovative materials that are environmentally friendly and socially responsible. Sparxell's products are sustainably designed to overcome the challenges associated with synthetic and unethically-sourced pigments.

Redesigning the way colours are made. Sparxell's pioneering pigments are made with cellulose extracted from plants nanostructured in a wide range of vibrant shades. Sparxell's patented technology arises from multiple years of interdisciplinary research performed at the University of Cambridge. It has been awarded several major innovation prizes, shedding light on Sparxell's ambitions to foster sustainability in advanced materials, with a targeted impact on multiple sectors that heavily rely on colouring matter, from cosmetics to fashion, packaging, paint and food.

2. WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Working closely with our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Advisor, you will drive innovation, refine and scale up Sparxell's current technology and develop its future technological edge.

Your main tasks will involve:

- **Driving** innovation and creativity in developing new materials, processes and technologies.
- **Developing and implementing** a comprehensive research strategy that aligns with the company's business goals, timelines and budgets.
- **Proposing, conceptualising, and prototyping** new ideas, **setting** research priorities with CEO/CSA.
- **Organizing** and **planning** R&D projects, studies and resources.
- **Supervising** a growing team of laboratory and production technicians
- **Managing and monitoring** tests and trials to deliver minimum viable products.
- **Generating, analysing, synthesizing** and **communicating** research data with both expert and non-expert audiences.
- **Maintaining** an overview of IP development and protection in concert with senior management.
- **Optimizing** processes from lab bench to scale-up and production, while considering the sustainable merchandising of the product at a competitive price.
- **Setting up** and **managing** protocols.
- **Ensuring** compliance with health and safety regulations.
- **Collaborating** with internal teams and external partners, including customers, academic institutions, and government agencies.
- **Realizing** reports for internal and external needs.

- **Representing** the company in scientific conferences, meetings, and other events from time to time.

3. YOUR PROFILE & QUALIFICATIONS:

We are looking for a talented and expert scientist with outstanding research skills in one or more of the following fields, from preparation to characterisation:

- **Nanocellulose** material preparation, such as prior experience with suspension, film and coating.
- **Photonic properties**, liquid crystal and matter **nanostructuration**.
- **Process engineering** and manufacturing processes.
- Lignocellulosic **bio-refinery**, pre-treatment and extraction.
- Plant-based or bio-based polymer **formulation** or **chemical functionalisation**.

You earned a Ph.D. or have an M.Sc. in chemistry, physical-chemistry, physics or engineering with at least 2 years of relevant academic and/or industrial experience in a related field.

You are a team player, have the **ability to lead and motivate a team** of researchers to achieve project goals. You should have management experience and the ability to delegate responsibilities effectively.

You are **creative** with a pioneering spirit yet focused and dedicated.

You are **adaptive**, open to feedback and trying new approaches, and you have **a proactive attitude** to solving challenging problems.

You have **strong analytical skills**, including the ability to design and interpret experiments, analyse data, and draw conclusions from results.

You have **excellent organisational skills** including effective management of own workload and supervising others in their day-to-day and strategic goals within a broader team context.

You **communicate**, both in writing and verbally, with passion and accuracy on each project you are part of, documenting your work and reporting it. Your command of English is very good, and you may be fluent in another language.

You are keen to engage in a **fast-paced** and exciting working environment in which you will play a decisive role in the company's future success.

You may have an **entrepreneurial mindset** and be willing to take risks and explore new ideas.

You may have the **ability to think strategically** and develop a long-term vision for the company's research and development efforts.

4. BENEFITS & CONDITIONS:

Deadline for application: 31st of May 2023.

Contract: Full-time fixed-term contract of 20 months that can lead to an open-ended contract and career advancement and opportunities.

Starting: When available, ideally by the 1st of July 2023.

Location: Cambridge, UK, with international mobility and flexible working arrangements.

Estimated remuneration: £ 45 – 65k with early employee equity package.

Right to work in the UK: We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working with us. Therefore, if you still need to get the right to work in the UK, any offer of employment will be conditional upon you gaining this right.

References: Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

5. CONSIDERING JOINING OUR TEAM?

If you want to join our endeavour, please send your CV and a cover letter to **contact@sparxell.com**. Please name your documents as JobID_Forename Surname_CV or CL for faster internal processing. With these two mandatory documents, feel free to add any miscellaneous material supporting your application.

Colour speaks to all, and so does Sparxell. Our company is committed to building a diverse team and an inclusive environment where all employees belong. We encourage women, people of colour, of all ages, individuals with disabilities, gender-expansive individuals and LGBTQ+ candidates, and other under-represented minorities to apply to this position.

We will aim to review your application within a week and get back to you within a reasonable time with a final decision on your application.