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Composites Manufacturing Team Lead

Description

Windlift's mission is to produce energy for a sustainable civilization, which we believe is the defining challenge of our time. Our approach harnesses wind energy using 90% less material than traditional turbines and will cut the cost of wind energy in half. We have successfully demonstrated the core technology and are expanding our team to:

- Produce a fully functioning tech demonstrator
- Develop a production-ready design for our early-adopter government customers
- Design, build, and test a commercial offshore system

If you are passionate about our mission and want to join a team developing technology with the potential to produce scalable, low-cost sustainable energy, we'd like to talk with you.

Windlift is hiring a Composite Manufacturing Team Lead. The manufacturing lead will collaborate with the engineering team to improve manufacturability through all stages of development and manufacture those designs into finished, ready-to-fly airborne power generators.

As the Manufacturing Team Lead, you:

- Have a manufacturing engineering or related degree or equivalent experience
- Have extensive experience with the art and science of high-performance composites manufacturing, including tooling and jig/fixture design, infusion, wet layup including foam-core/sandwich laminate fabrication, pre-preg laminate fabrication, post-cure processes, composite structure assembly/bonding processes, process control, finishing, and paint
- Have experience using a variety of fiber and resin systems, including carbon fiber and fiberglass, thermoset resins, woven, braided, multi-axial and unidirectional fiber products
- Have experience with managing a safe, efficient, and clean working environment
- Have experience building and managing high performing teams (currently envisioned as 4 technicians and growing in the future)
- Can find the correct balance between respecting traditional methods ("what works") and imagining a better way in view of materials and component improvements ("what if")
- Are comfortable in a fast-paced, ever-changing environment. For example, the build team will build test fixtures and participate in testing of all types
- Are energized by the opportunity to re-imagine composites manufacturing to support volumes of millions (yes millions) to achieve the mission of energy for a sustainable civilization
- Love to work on difficult problems, build cool things, experiment at the edge of what is possible, learn new skills, and share your experience with the team

Employment Type

Full-time

Job Location

Durham, NC, USA

Date posted

August 1, 2023

Base Salary

\$ 120,000 - \$?

- Look forward to working with a diverse team of engineers, builders, dreamers, and doers

The ideal candidate will also:

- Have experience using a CNC router, including setting up tool paths, tool changes, and producing code/instructions for the CNC machine to make parts, tools, and jigs. This is very desirable
- Have laser cutting experience
- Be able to design an agile workflow that takes CAD geometry through the complete manufacturing process to finished components, automating steps where practical, to enable rapid turns of new prototype designs and scaling for production
- Be hands-on, able to design tooling and fixturing from CAD data to toolpath to finished part. Tooling may be made from a variety of materials, including epoxy tooling boards, nylon plastics and aluminum. Experience machining any of these materials is desired, with the ability to properly adjust machining speed, cutters, and tool path design to accommodate the different materials
- Have experience with or be interested in manufacturing composite propeller/turbines as well as the airframe
- Able to effectively operate a manual metal-working lathe and milling machine for making small numbers of prototype parts
- Have experience building a team and facility to produce parts in a production environment.
- Have machining, welding, and test fixture design experience

This is an incredible opportunity to join Windlift at an inflection point in growth and make a real contribution to our mission of producing energy for a sustainable civilization.

We cultivate a culture of inclusion for all employees that respects their individual strengths, views, and experiences. We believe that our differences enable us to drive innovation, make better decisions, and accomplish extraordinary things.

Medical, dental and vision benefits are provided. Windlift is located close to Raleigh, Durham, Cary, and Research Triangle Park, NC, all of which are great places to work, live, and play.