



VACANCY

Head of Research & Development Laboratory

Irish Cement Limited is seeking applications for the position of Head of Research & Development (R&D) Laboratory.

Job Purpose

This is a senior position in applied, industrial R&D which will play a central role in the Company's carbon reduction and circular economy strategies, in addition to the operational & commercial excellence programmes in Irish Cement Limited.

Irish Cement Limited is a fully owned subsidiary of CRH plc and has manufactured cement in Ireland for over 80 years. It operates two cement-manufacturing facilities, one situated in Platin, approximately 5km from Drogheda, Co. Louth and a second in Castlemungret, Co. Limerick. Production uses the most advanced, energy-efficient technology to create a range of high-quality cements to the highest Irish and International standards.

In addition to research and development on products and process, the R&D Laboratory provides technical support to our sales team in assisting customers and carries out routine specialist testing for both factories. The successful applicant will be based and manage a small team in our R&D Laboratory in Platin Works, Drogheda, Co. Louth. The Head of R&D reports to the Platin Works Manager on practical day to day matters and to the Technical Marketing Manager who directs the overall R&D work programme.

Key duties and responsibilities

Product & Process Development:

- Assess and evaluate potential new raw materials and fuels for clinker production.
- Manage R&D on lower carbon cements.
- Monitor and research new developments in the industry and encourage the adoption of new ideas and technology within the Company.

Technical Marketing support:

- Assist the Technical Marketing department in providing technical assistance to customers and monitoring market performance of products.
- Investigate customer queries and complaints.
- Assist the Technical Marketing department in the introduction of new products to the market.

Production support:

- Manage a programme of routine specialist testing to support both factories, including clinker mineralogy, burnability, grindability, thermo-gravimetric analyses (TGA), x-ray diffraction (XRD) etc.
- Analysis of product and process data to advise on production improvements.

Laboratory Administration:

- Responsibility for all Health & Safety matters pertaining to R&D Laboratory activities.
- Management, recruitment, training and development of R&D Laboratory staff.
- Management of R&D Laboratory equipment, procedures, systems and out-sourced service providers to ensure delivery of a safe and efficient service.
- Analyse data and liaise with specialist external laboratories as required to produce clear, concise, accurate and reliable reports.
- Prepare service plans for laboratory equipment, manage equipment service providers and advise on upgrade/replacement.

Key Skills

- In depth knowledge of chemistry, superior analytical and problem-solving skills and curiosity to continuously enhance understanding of cement & concrete technology.
- Excellent report writing and communication skills.
- Ability to influence key decision makers on strategic decisions.
- Knowledge of safety data and practices associated with the use of chemicals and laboratory procedures/equipment.
- Competent IT knowledge, strong record keeping skills and attention to detail.
- The ability to work in a team, both with direct reports and in a collaborative manner.

The above list is not exhaustive. The successful candidate will be expected to perform duties as necessitated by the changing role and the overall business objectives of the Company, as directed.

Candidates should preferably possess:

- A 3rd level qualification (BSc or higher) in a suitable discipline such as Chemistry, Materials Science or Geology and experience in a similar or related role within industry.
- A work history of contributing and adding value to the overall performance of a previous employer.

Outstanding candidates who do not possess all the above criteria may also be considered.

This vacancy provides an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to join a multi-national organisation with business interests in the building materials sector across the world. See www.crh.com for more information.

Candidates wishing to apply can submit a current curriculum vitae before mid-day on Friday 23rd April 2021 to jobadvertisements@irishcement.ie using the subject heading; "Head of R&D Laboratory".

****Closing date for applications is 23rd April 2021**

Visit www.irishcement.ie for more information.