

Programme Manager

Level Crossings and Highways

Employer: East West Railway Company

Location: Milton Keynes

Basis: Interim to Permanent

Role Summary: As the Level Crossings and Highways Programme Manager here at EWR Co, you will manage various programme wide initiatives from inception through to completion, ensuring stakeholders are engaged, progress including schedule, cost and risk is reported on robustly and change is managed effectively so to drive the programme forward.

Team dimensions: Reporting to the Delivery Director

A little bit about us:

East West Railway Company is a new and exciting opportunity to be at the forefront of the changing landscape of the rail industry, delivering substantial fast-paced improvement to modernise the railway.

East West Rail is a proposed new rail link between Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Cambridge and potentially beyond. As part of the wider plans for this strategically important corridor, it is one of the most high-profile infrastructure projects in the UK today. The new railway will improve local connectivity and serve as a catalyst for economic development and the creation of new housing, as well as significantly reducing existing journey times.

In the 2017 Budget, it was announced that the East West Railway Company would be established to bring new drive and focus to the project. The Secretary of State for Transport recently launched the company, highlighting its role to bring innovation, to deliver more quickly and cost-effectively than existing models, and to develop competition with Network Rail.

The company is now scaling up significantly as it has taken on delegations and obligations relating to the delivery of the Western Section and Central Sections of the scheme, which will provide both innovative upgrades to existing track and to design then construct new infrastructure.

Key Focus of the Role

The programme manager is responsible for the successful delivery of the proposed change, co-ordination of the project and management of the independencies. These areas will include, but is not limited to:

- To develop the design and mitigations required for level crossings and highways along the route to meet EWR Co aspirations
- To deliver the agreed solutions at the various Level Crossings between Bicester and Bedford
- To act as the EWR Co single point of contact for internal and external customers in respect of level crossing and associated highway solutions.

Responsibilities of the Role

As Programme Manager you will have the following responsibilities:

- Planning and effective coordination and resolution of issues for the tasks and projects under your control, where necessary initiating corrective actions
- Co-ordination of the different elements of the project to time, cost and budget and within the agreed governance
- Oversight and management of associated risks and issues arising from the programme
- Development and lead on effective change and realisation of the project benefits
- Manage budget and deliverables and where required monitor and prepare reports
- Monitor and manage the integrity and interfaces of the programme, ensuring quality control, continuous improvement and where appropriate innovation are consistent with EWR Co values
- Manage suppliers and their project teams, where appropriate, ensuring that any EWR obligations are delivered
- Communicate with statutory, legal and local authorities, residents' associations, contractors, to maintain and promote a positive EWR Co corporate image
- Establish and maintain appropriate, professional and pro-active working relationship with supplier's project management team
- Take responsibility of your own and others' health and safety by adopting and working to the EWR Co Health and Safety principles.
- Co-operate with EWR Co in all matters relating to health and safety, including following safe working procedures at all times.
- Act as a role model for EWR Co's vision and values, behaving in ways that are aligned with EWR Co's Ways of Working, as well as encouraging and supporting others to do so too.
- Promote diversity in the workplace and adopt appropriate behaviour when interacting with colleagues

You should apply if you are:

- A compelling, convincing and articulate communicator, who uses written and oral communications to inspire as well as convey succinct and clear messages
- Demonstrably fair, open and honest, with a strong moral compass
- Unswerving in your attempts to seek the best value to the public purse
- A self-starter who excels in a fast-paced and changing environment
- A persuasive programme manager, able to take stakeholders on a journey to help achieve their aims
- Comfortable in a politically influenced environment where strategic change may frequently lead to a new approach and a sudden reworking of previous efforts.
- Intrinsically flexible and relaxed in a role which grows and changes as the project develops, doing whatever is necessary to deliver the desired outcomes
- Motivated by helpfully challenging your peers, and being challenged by peers, to achieve better outcomes
- A problem solver who is excited by resolving issues at pace
- Well versed in, and at ease with, all the basics of project management – including the control of cost, schedule and risk
- Proficient in using your analytical skills to develop and deploy incisive mitigations
- A passionate supporter of innovation and improvement, who is always searching for better ways to deliver
- Captivated by the opportunity to lead disruptive change to the UK infrastructure sector
- Motivated to develop and grow professionally as a project leader and/or specialist
- A strong enthusiast of a paradigm shift in working practices and project reporting, using technology to empower honesty and accuracy and drive successful delivery and productivity change
- Driven to lead a step change in how documentation is used, and how bureaucracy can be drastically cut to aid delivery certainty.

You should apply if you have:

Skills:

- Effective leadership, interpersonal and communication skills (essential)
- Confident, succinct and inspiring communication (essential)
- Adept at balancing competing needs and pressures to achieve strategic aims (essential)
- At ease with, and having an appetite for, technological change (desirable)
- A proven successful deployer of innovation and change in a project environment (highly desirable)
- Degree qualified in an appropriate business discipline or an experiential equivalent (desirable)
- Chartered membership of a relevant professional body (desirable)

Knowledge:

- A deep understanding of risk and change management and control
- Good knowledge of programme and project management tools, i.e PRINCE 2 (essential)
- A good understanding of continuous improvement methodologies and ideas (highly desirable)
- Knowledge of change at a railway level crossings and highway works and its operational complexities (desirable)
- Knowledge of all project management activities and procurement (highly desirable)

Experience:

- Broad experience of working as programme management for a complex, safety focused and regulated organisation with multiple complex interfaces, and delivering to time budget and quality (essential)
- Significant experience of demonstrable personal responsibility for managing projects of between £5m-£100m value (desirable)
- Experience leading and/or participating in continuous improvement/innovation deployment in an engineering/construction environment (essential)
- Sufficient seniority and credibility to be able to advise other members of the team on wider projects in relation to the programme.

Join the team!

Please send your resume and a covering letter explaining why you are interested in the role and meet the above experience requirements to: **recruitment@eastwestrail.co.uk**