

Employer: East West Railway Company
Location: Milton Keynes
Basis: Permanent

A little bit about us:

East West Rail is a new direct connection, linking communities between Oxford and Cambridge, including Bicester, Milton Keynes and Bedford by rail. Oxford, Cambridge and the communities in between are renowned for their vibrant economy, educational excellence and scientific innovation. They deliver growth and prosperity both locally and for the whole country; connecting these two cities and the communities in between is crucial to the social and economic future of the region.

East West Railway Company was set up to accelerate the delivery of the East West Rail infrastructure and passenger services, bringing faster journey times and easing pressure on local roads.

We were set up by the Secretary of State for Transport in 2017 to do things differently. We aim to innovate, positively disrupt, and challenge the status-quo, leading to quicker and more cost-effective project delivery, and an improved experience for passengers and the communities we serve.

Role Summary:

Create the right rail industry environment for the EWR Co. to achieve its outcomes and meet the Sponsor's Requirements by creating effective relationships with a range of enterprise partners including: Great British Railways, Network Rail, the ORR, train and freight operators.

Team dimensions:

- Reports to the Head of Sponsorship and Assurance in the Strategy and Sponsorship directorate
- Recruit and lead the Enterprise and Industry Strategy sponsorship team (comprised of this post plus two additional Sponsors who will be recruited during 2022 and 2023) with an aim of creating a team with high levels of performance and wellbeing.
- Works closely with the Programme Sponsor – Infrastructure & Rail Connectivity and Programme Sponsor – Stations & Communities
- Principal Interfaces: Leaders in EWR Co's Strategy and Sponsorship, Customer Services and Delivery functions (especially the Enterprise Programme Director's team) and more widely the Enterprise Partner and Programme Integrator.

Responsibilities and accountabilities:

- Accountable for creating the right rail industry environment and developing the strong strategic relationships needed for the EWR Co. to achieve its 'Target State'. This includes agreeing commercial, operational, and strategic principles with Great British Railways.
- Build relationships with key industry stakeholders especially DfT, ORR, Network Rail, Train and Freight Operating Companies to agree how EWR fits into the national rail network.

- Sponsor the closer integration of operations and maintenance for the East West Railway by aligning internal and external stakeholders.
- Ensure the EWR project responds to the changing industry environment and aligns with Government's strategy for rail, including the Williams-Shapps Plan.
- Ensure the Enterprise meets the sponsor's requirements and maintains alignment with wider industry strategy by being part of - and instructing changes to - the Enterprise Steering Group.
- Lead project lifecycle gateway reviews, including Integration Gates, and hold programme and project managers accountable to deliver the scope, outcomes and benefits needed to enable progression to later lifecycle phases.
- Be an ambassador for East West Rail Co. and its positive disruptor role

Experience and skills:

- A track record of strategy development and change management in the UK rail sector
- Proven experience of working with industry leaders, senior civil servants, and regulators • Ability to empathize, influence and negotiate to achieve solutions
- Has managed a high performing team and a track record of operate across a fast-paced matrix organization.
- Socially aware with the desire to promote inclusivity and diversity. • An understanding of Project 13 Principles would be desirable

What we offer:

- Competitive base salary
- Up to 12% employer's pension contribution
- 36 days holiday a year (including bank holidays) + up to 2 days to buy
- Life assurance
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Perks platform with hundreds of discounts and freebies
- On-the-spot and annual awards
- Advanced learning and development programmes
- Great work-life balance and flexible working opportunities
- Enhanced family-friendly policies
- Exceptional IT tools

EWR Co strives to embrace a flexible working environment, where a degree of flexibility is maintained to accommodate both the needs and preferences of employees and what is required to achieve business objectives. EWR Co will always work with any individual to assess and accommodate an individual's work life balance and style.

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