

Category Manager - Engineering

Employer:	East West Railway Company
Location:	Milton Keynes (Hybrid Working)
Basis:	Permanent
Team dimensions:	Reporting directly to the Head of Category Management

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.

As we build our team, we're looking for people with the right skills and mindset so that we can innovate, positively disrupt and set new industry standards. Whether you've been working on some of the world's most exciting rail and infrastructure projects or can inspire us with your ideas and expertise from other sectors, we want to hear from you.

Job Summary

The successful candidate will join a category management team split into defined categories and will be the lead on the Engineering category, providing strategic and pre-award support across all category stakeholders within East West Rail.

They will support the Head of Category Management and Head of Procurement in ensuring that robust processes are in place over the Commercial affairs of East West Rail, and that procurement projects are successfully delivered to support the Company's aims and objectives.

They will support the management and coordination of the Engineering category through commercial activities, such as category strategies and procurement ranging from low value to high value and complex.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

The base responsibilities and accountabilities for the Category Manager within Engineering will be;

- Engage with internal stakeholders to build close, trusted relationships and to ensure a complete understanding on upcoming requirements in IT & Professional Services category space
- Analyse the procurement pipeline to identify category workload and synergies that can be built into a maintained category management plan
- Lead on producing the strategic approach to delivering procurement requirements, to ensure optimum results in terms of benefits, compliance and value for money
- Monitor relevant supplier markets and identify opportunities resulting from market innovation /or market shifts
- Support and influence business strategy at the defining requirements stage, and lead on all resulting commercial activities, including market engagement, development of tender documentation, drafting contracts, supplier feedback and other standard activities
- Create and update a category strategy, building a business case for efficiency initiatives that can be implemented across East West Rail to improve any commercial aspects of the business. In doing this, the Procurement team add value to EWR Co outside of tendering.
- Ensure that risks are identified and that mitigation actions are defined and managed
- Act as a role model for EWR Co's vision and values, behaving in ways that are in alignment with EWR Co's ways of working, encouraging and supporting others
- Promote equality in the workplace and adopt appropriate behaviour when interacting with colleagues

Role Dimensions

Reporting to the Head of Category Management

Given the early stage of the project, it is likely that the nature of the role may evolve as the project progresses. It is also possible that other ad-hoc activities and duties may be required.

Experience and skills

- At least 5 years' experience in procurement / category management, ideally within a regulated business and / or within the UK rail industry
- Experience in managing large value engineering / construction procurements via NEC contracts
- Knowledge of procurement processes, including relevant regulatory requirements (e.g. OJEU / FTS and Public Contracts Regulations)
- Public sector procurement experience is an advantage, including knowledge and understanding of Crown Commercial Service frameworks
- Strong financial and commercial acumen
- Excellent communication, relationship management and presentation skills
- Demonstrable negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Strong ability to engage and manage stakeholders
- Experience in driving innovation and change
- UK rail industry and/or capital programme knowledge and experience is an advantage
- Prior management or leadership experience is an advantage
- Ability to work autonomously
- Strong people skills and ability to work effectively as part of a team

What we offer:

- Competitive base salary
- Quarterly bonus scheme based on individual performance
- 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

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