**Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE)**

GCRE is a special purpose vehicle being established by the Welsh Government in partnership with Celtic Energy, Powys County Council and Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council. UK Government, via BEIS, are also making a substantial initial financial contribution. GCRE and Transport for Wales also work closely together.

The GCRE company will be responsible for attracting public/private funding to deliver ambitious plans to build a unique rail test and innovation environment in South Wales’s industrial heartland. GCRE will be a purpose-built, modern facility with the potential to transform the railway industry in the UK, make a significant socio-economic impact in Wales, and contribute to the UK Government’s re-balancing agenda by delivering much-needed investment to a deprived area and stimulate the UK’s research, development and innovation capabilities.

GCRE is a fast-growing start-up with a strong strategic vision and ambitious objectives.

We are looking for a **Director of Rail Operations** (DRO) to support the existing executive management team in strategic decision-making, achieving our ambitious growth targets, providing operational railway expertise and to support the Executive Committee in key decision-making.

The DRO will be the senior operational railway officer of the GCRE company, reporting directly to the Chief Executive. The DRO will be responsible for the safe, efficient, and effective operation of all railway systems under the control of the GCRE company and will provide the company with operational and railway safety advice.

The DRO will work closely with both the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and Director of Implementation (DI) to develop the design and performance specification for the construction of the GCRE infrastructure. The relationship between CTO and DRO will be critical to ensure that the stretching design targets can be translated into safe and effective operational practice. Similarly, the DI will be guided by the DRO when determining how the rail elements of the GCRE will be constructed.

A highly motivated individual with a proven track record in management at a senior level, you will lead on all rail operation issues. The role demands challenging leadership and influencing skills to ensure the shareholder’s interests in the project are protected. Given the significant amount of public sector funding involved, governance is critical as decisions and performance will be exposed in this high-profile project.

The role will evolve with the needs of the business, and the remit will span the breadth of the business. The ideal candidate will bring experience of operating a safe railway environment and managing key infrastructure projects.

This is an excellent opportunity to work in a dynamic community of rail/transport industry operators, owners, researchers, innovators and funders, and partner with talented people across the globe.

The role will be perfect for someone who is passionate in this area and looking to take on an autonomous role where they can create, implement, and operate a unique rail testing environment. You will also contribute to the wider business strategy to ensure achievement of GCRE’s financial and operational targets and expected to drive forward necessary change.

**Qualifications:**

Degree in engineering, management, logistics or a related field; 10+ years of experience in the UK railway; excellent analytical skills; leadership skills; management experience; integrity; honesty; understanding of rail regulation; exceptional communication skills, both written and verbal; thorough understanding of health and safety requirements of rail operations; superior attention to detail; organisational skills; planning skills; problem-solving skills; research skills; critical thinking skills; computer skills; multi-tasking skills.