**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.

As a key member of GCRE’s management team, the **Head of Procurement and Contracts** (HPC) will ensure effective contractual relationships with suppliers and customers; that GCRE’s spending power is maximised; that GCRE has an effective, consistent, and efficient procurement policy in line with the policies and ambitions of GCRE’s shareholders and that where public money is used government procurement policies are followed.

Reporting to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), you will be responsible for helping GCRE to establish itself, define and adhere to its corporate governance processes, and develop new contractual relationship for the construction and operation of GCRE, as well as developing a suite of contracts that GCRE can use to engage with its customers.

GCRE will cost over £300m to build and will eventually generate several tens of millions per annum in revenue. The HPC will be responsible for developing strategic relationship with GCRE’s key suppliers and creating a robust procurement pipeline to ensure that GCRE has the necessary levels of contractual cover to ensure all capital expenditure delivers its intended outcomes. Similarly, in the case of GCRE’s customer contracts, to ensure GCRE’s commercial interests are protected when engaging with customers.

You'll be highly literate, financially astute and have the emotional intelligence to read a room, to be able to converse with Non-Executive Directors and Executive Directors as well as other key stakeholders, such as Government and Private Investors. It's essential that you are organised and have experience of working in a confidential environment and respect commercial sensitivities.

You will be used to procuring and managing contracts for both the public and private sector. You will have prior experience of “Managing Public Money” or “Managing Welsh Public Money” along with its implication and operational consequences. You will help to translate its requirements into business processes, especially those around procurement and contracts, that can be adapted/converted to manage private sources of investment as the Company matures.

This is an excellent opportunity for an individual that views procurement as more than tick box, someone who wants to get under the skin of the organisation to establish strategic contractual relationships with suppliers/customers, and ensure strong associated governance flows throughout the organisation. You'll join us at an exciting time as we develop the company and create our internal governance and funding arrangements.

**Qualifications:**

CIPS qualified or hold equivalent degree/diploma in relevant subject; extensive knowledge of English contract law, EU and UK/Welsh Government procurement regulations; 10+ years of senior management experience in procurement/contract management roles; excellent analytical skills; leadership skills; management experience; integrity; honesty; exceptional communication skills, both written and verbal; superior attention to detail; organisational skills; planning skills; problem-solving skills; research skills; critical thinking skills; computer skills; strong relationship management; multi-tasking skills and strong governance background.