

# Distribution Networks Senior R&D Engineer

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| Department     | Power Networks Demonstration Centre (PNDC) ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/pndc/">http://www.strath.ac.uk/pndc/</a> ), Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/eee/">http://www.strath.ac.uk/eee/</a> ) |                |                      |
| Faculty        | Faculty of Engineering ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/">www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/</a> )   |                |                      |
| Staff Category | Knowledge Exchange  | Reference No   | 174498               |
| Reports To     | PNDC R&D Manager  | Grade:         | 8                    |
| Salary Range:  | £40,792- £50,132  | Contract Type: | Open Contract        |
| FTE:           | 1   | Closing Date   | Sunday, 21 July 2019 |

## Job Advert

The Power Networks Demonstration Centre (PNDC) wishes to appoint a Senior Research and Development Engineer in the area of Distribution Networks. Working with the industrial stakeholders and senior colleagues, the post holder will lead the development of industrial research proposals, secure additional project funding and deliver industrial research projects. This senior role requires the post holder to demonstrate leadership across these activities and have a track history in successfully developing project proposals and securing funding for innovation and research.

The ideal candidate will have experience of working within or in collaboration with the UK DNO industry and bring a clear understanding of the key challenges faced by industry.

The post holder will require the knowledge, skills and experience normally associated with a first degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and industrial experience in research and innovation, or a PhD with subsequent postdoctoral industrial research experience.

The post holder will have an established track record in leading the delivery of projects in collaboration with industry or in industrial context and will have the ability to work autonomously, plan and prioritise own workload with minimal inputs from higher management. The post holder will also need significant experience of project planning and delivery, as well as excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with a proven ability to interact with a range of stakeholders from industry and academia.

The Power Networks Demonstration Centre is a world-class facility with dedicated staff that will accelerate the adoption of new, 'smart' technologies within advanced power grids, supporting the increased accommodation of renewable energy, electric vehicles and demand side management. The £12.5 million Centre - the first of its kind in Europe – has been founded by the University of Strathclyde and leading energy companies including Scottish Power Energy Networks and Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution, with support from Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Funding Council. With the addition of UK



Power Networks, Vodafone, Cisco and many other partners, the Centre has expanded its membership to twelve and this growth is set to continue.

The PNDC provides: a purpose-built platform for showcasing state of the art electrical distribution, generation, storage and demand side innovation; a rapid technology pipeline accelerating the proving and deployment of integrated smart grid solutions with commercial partners; a realistic and controllable test bed from primary plant to state-of-the-art control room for the development of emerging smart grid technologies that will support the realisation of a decarbonised grid. The PNDC is formally linked to the University

through the Institute for Energy and Environment within the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

## Job Description

### Brief Outline of Job:

The Senior R&D Engineer will lead the development and delivery of R&D projects in the area of distribution networks.

Through engaging in relevant professional and knowledge exchange activities you will support the PNDC's external profile and technical leadership.

### Main Activities/Responsibilities:

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| 1.  | Provide leadership in identifying and securing additional funding for active research activities, increasing the research portfolio and leveraging industrial funding where possible.  |
| 2.  | Provide technical expert advice and lead on collaborative research, development and testing projects in distribution networks. Determine and utilise appropriate new research methods, with a focus on practical implementation and validation within the PNDC facilities.   |
| 3.  | Assess, evaluate and interpret outcomes of R&D project activity, identifying new applications/approaches/techniques or technologies and ensuring that any IP generated is recognised and managed appropriately.  |
| 4.  | Provide expert guidance to project teams in area of expertise to ensure resource efficient solutions are developed in response to industry and research challenges. Mentor colleagues with less experience and advise on personal development.   |
| 5.  | Apply technical knowledge to industry issues to investigate and quantify problems experienced by PNDC members and clients, by developing project outlines and project specifications for consideration as part of the centre core programme or directly funded work. Lead on and contribute to the development of geared funding proposals.          |
| 6.  | Project manage larger, more complex projects, ensuring deliverables are met and clear reporting is available. Manage delivery of 3 <sup>rd</sup> party contributions or suppliers as required including resolving problems of meeting objectives and deadlines and resolving any difficulties that may occur between the internal team and partners. |
| 7.  | Maintain appropriate engagement with industrial members and third party vendors to ensure relevance and accuracy of work. Maintain professional awareness to ensure originality and exploitability of the research outputs.  |
| 8.  | Provide quality technical and progress reports of research, development and testing work for distribution to members and clients. Adopt best practice in effective knowledge transfer and support wider dissemination at conferences and in peer reviewed journals.  |
| 9.  | As part of the dynamic team at PNDC, contribute to the safe operational running of the centre, including effective administration and knowledge exchange events and initiatives.   |
| 10. | Maintain appropriate engagement with colleagues in the wider university teams, to support the capture of further and significant funding opportunities, exploit synergy with other research programmes and contribute to alignment with key industry member needs.   |
| 11. | Engage in continuous professional development, participating in external networks and consultations to maintain current knowledge of relevant state of the art, patent positions, products and technology readiness levels.  |
| 12. | Contribute to policy and industry consultations where appropriate, in support of PNDC input to the sector.   |

## Person Specification

### Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E.1 Good honours degree (minimum class 2:1) in a relevant engineering discipline. E.g. Electrical and Electronic Engineering

E.2 Professional experience or PhD in a relevant engineering discipline

D.1 Chartered Engineer/ Member of professional body in an appropriate discipline

### Experience

E.3 Significant experience of addressing a range of industrial and commercial challenges within an academic or industrial enterprise.

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| E.4  | Ability to lead in and take technical ownership of research and development areas, and manage the work of a R&D engineers.                                    |
| E.5  | A track record of developing research and development project proposals and securing funding  |
| E.6  | A track record of engaging with industry and research institution to shape collaborative research and development projects or programs                        |
| E.7  | A track record of leading the delivery of research and development projects   |
| E.8  | Experience in working in teams and managing/mentoring colleagues.   |
| D.2  | Experience in the assessment of business impact of research and development projects  |
| D.3  | Line management experience of a team of people  |
| <b>Job Related Skills and Achievements</b> |   |
| E.9  | Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with an ability to interact with a range of stakeholders in both industry and academia.                    |
| E.10                                       | Ability to influence stakeholders, internally and externally, at varying levels and ability to convey compelling arguments with complex technical information |
| D.4  | High levels of initiative with the ability to apply knowledge in a highly practical environment, and to generate new ideas.                                   |
| <b>Personal Attributes</b>                 |   |
| E.11                                       | An ability to work as part of a team, through participation in collaborative projects, and developing evidence of leadership.                                 |
| E.12                                       | Ability to develop new areas and manage associated ambiguity as new research themes emerge  |
| E.13                                       | An ability to listen, engage and persuade, and to present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences                                    |

## Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted before interview without permission, unless you indicate that you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter as a single document detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

## Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Alan Dunn, PNDC Chief Operating Officer (alan.dunn@strath.ac.uk/+44 1236 617172).

### Rewards and Benefits

Our staff have access to a wide range of outstanding benefits that include financial rewards, family friendly and wellbeing benefits and career development opportunities, details of which can be found [here](#).

### Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Knowledge Exchange staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).

### Pre-employment health screening

An offer of appointment will be subject to a medical assessment by Occupational Health. An individual who accepts an offer of employment must complete a confidential medical questionnaire and forward it to the Occupational Health Nurse within 5 days of receipt. If further information is required the individual may be contacted by the OHN or a Medical Advisor and a personal appointment with the individual may be arranged. An unconditional contract of employment will not be issued until Human Resources receives confirmation that applicant is fit to undertake the duties of the post.

### Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 12 month probationary period.

## Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

## Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the Relocation Policy.

## Equality and Diversity

We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The University currently holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award, recognising our commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

## University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. [Our Values](#) have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.

