

Systems Integration Research Engineer

Department	Power Networks Demonstration Centre (PNDC) (http://www.strath.ac.uk/research/powernetworksdemonstrationcentre/), Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (http://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/electronicalelectricalengineering/)		
Faculty	Faculty of Engineering (www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/)		
Staff Category	Knowledge Exchange	Reference No	224390
Reports To	PNDC Programme Delivery Manager	Grade:	7
Salary Range:	£32236 - £39609	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (24 months)
FTE	1	Closing Date	24/06/2019

Job Advert

The University of Strathclyde in Glasgow possesses a large internationally rated Engineering Faculty with a proud history of successful joint ventures with industrial and enterprise partners. As part of the University's strategic development, the Power Networks Demonstration Centre (PNDC) has been established in Wardpark North near Cumbernauld. The PNDC 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. Tier 1 industry members of the centre include Scottish Power Energy Networks, Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution, UK Power Networks, Vodafone, and CISCO. The Centre has expanded its membership since its founding 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 de-carbonised grid. The PNDC is formally linked to the University through the Institute for Energy and Environment within the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

The PNDC seeks to appoint a Research Engineer with the ambition, talent and drive to develop and test integrated software platforms and smart grid solutions in its unique, world-class industry-scale facility.

The successful candidate will work as part of a growing dynamic team on a wide range of technical projects and research with particular emphasis on experimental validation and testing. Opportunities for innovation are extensive, through the strong working relationship and routes to market afforded by the PNDC industry members, which include Vodafone and Cisco. This will be supplemented with collaborative opportunities with other research and industry teams in the UK and abroad.

This position will cover the systems integration specialism within an electrical utilities context.

You will have a proven track record of delivering industry-facing projects either achieved through a PhD or work experience. You will possess the ability and knowledge to integrate multiple hardware & software sub-systems into a comprehensive functioning system.

You will have an ability to produce technical reports, conference/journal papers or both. Software development expertise is a must, with experience of software development in a variety of languages. Knowledge or experience of the following would also be advantageous to the role: electrical utilities operational systems, safety critical systems, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, programmable logic controllers (PLC), remote terminal units (RTU), industrial communication systems and the system engineering approach.

You should possess a good honours degree in electronics, electrical engineering, computer science, communications or a relevant engineering/science subject; together with relevant professional experience or a completed PhD. Good evidence of technical writing ability and strong communication skills are important, as your work will include engagement with both academic and industrial partners. You must be a self-starter, you will be able to plan and conduct individual research and knowledge exchange activities in a structured fashion, as well as generate new ideas and concepts. You will have the capacity to work in a dynamically changing team environment.

Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:

You will undertake specific research and development projects under the guidance of the PNDC leadership team, providing regular updates and reports for industrial partners, and thus supporting the Centre objectives and targets. A strong engagement with industry colleagues, as well as with the PNDC and wider University team, will support the realisation of relevant and valuable results. You will lead specific research areas while contributing to others, and will develop project plans for consideration by industrial partners and clients as well as writing research proposals for geared funding. Through engagement with relevant professional and knowledge exchange activities, you will support the PNDC's external profile and technical leadership. Working as part of a dynamic team you will further support PNDC administrative and operational activities.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1. Conduct collaborative research, development and testing projects relevant to the PNDC research themes, determining and utilising appropriate new research methods, with a focus on practical implementation and validation within the PNDC facilities.
2. Contribute to assigned PNDC core themes in collaboration with theme leads, academic lead, working with the PNDC R&D Manager to contribute to the realisation of strategy. Maintain key relationships with industry partner thematic contacts.
3. Develop, test & deploy secure virtualisation platforms and cloud computing services.
4. Apply technical knowledge to industry issues to investigate and quantify problems experienced by PNDC members, and develop project enquiry outlines and project specifications for consideration as part of the Centre core programme. Contribute to the development of geared funding proposals, as part of this.
5. Plan and manage own workload, with guidance from colleagues as required, while adopting safe and appropriate working practices.
6. 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.
7. Provide quality technical and progress reports of research, development and testing work for distribution to members and clients, adopting best practice in effective knowledge transfer to members, and supporting wider dissemination at conferences and in peer-reviewed journals.
8. Provide mentoring, guidance and support to fellow researchers to ensure maximum value to the PNDC objectives and targets.
9. As part of the dynamic team at PNDC, contribute to the Centre's safe operational running, effective administration, and knowledge exchange events and initiatives.
10. 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.

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)

EI Good honours degree (minimum class 2:1) in Electronics, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, or similar.

E2	Professional experience or PhD in electronics or computer science.
Experience	
E3	Experience in working with cloud computing and setting up virtualisation platforms.
E4	Experience in a similar role and demonstrable ability and knowledge to integrate multiple hardware & software sub-systems into a comprehensive functioning system.
E5	Knowledge of industrial communications, networking technologies & associated security protocols.
E6	An excellent problem-solver, with a track record of achievement in an R&D environment.
E7	Experience of developing funding proposals within an industrial or academic setting
E8	Experience of the preparation of reports and technical papers.
D1	Computer simulation or modelling experience (e.g. MATLAB & Simulink).
D2	Familiarity with Smart Grids & Digital Substations.
D3	Experience of operational systems used by electrical utilities or in other safety critical industries.
D4	Experience of the systems engineering approach.
Job Related Skills and Achievements	
E9	Excellent programming skills and track record in successfully developing complex software in a variety of languages and operating systems (e.g. C++, Python, Java, Matlab, PLC based languages, Linux).
E10	Experience of the design and development of SCADA, PLC, RTU or similar systems.
E11	A sound understanding of AC electrical theory and practice and the electrical supply system / smart grids landscape.
Personal Attributes	
E12	Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written), with the ability to listen, engage and persuade, and to present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences.
E13	The ability to work independently and conduct individual research and knowledge exchange activity, with minimum supervision, and as part of a small team.
E14	High levels of initiative with the ability to apply knowledge in a highly practical environment, and to generate new ideas.

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted before interview without further permission, unless you indicate that you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter 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/workforum>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Simon Hill, Delivery Programme Manager (simon.hill@strath.ac.uk/+44 1236 617182).

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](#).

Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 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.

