

CPC441 - Executive Director, Ecosystem Innovation

Location	Accessible to Milton Keynes or London
Reporting to	Chief Business Officer
Working hours	Full-time
Contract type/duration	Permanent
Equal Opportunities	Connected Places Catapult (CPC) is committed to ensuring it recognises equal opportunities

About Us

Connected Places Catapult is the UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport, and places. We provide impartial and collaborative 'innovation as a service' for public bodies, businesses, and infrastructure providers to catalyse step-change improvements in the way people live, work and travel. We connect businesses and public sector leaders to cutting-edge research to spark innovation and grow new markets. We run technology demonstrators and SME accelerators to scale new solutions that drive growth, spread prosperity, and eliminate carbon.

We use and advocate for open standards which enable interoperability, replicability and scale. We work in partnership with others across the UK and beyond to provide access to R&D assets that deliver impact. We support local economies and organisations by being present within them to embed and transfer innovation capabilities. We are globally connected in order to stimulate demand for UK innovations overseas and co-create opportunities for companies to expand globally.

Purpose of the role

As the Executive Director responsible for Ecosystem Innovation you'll play a key leadership role for our organisation.

- **Externally**, you will work with senior executives across public, private and research sector organisations. You will understand and shape key requirements, inspire collaboration, and spark innovation. Acting as a representative at the wider Catapult's Research and Technology Group, you'll foster and deliver ambitious multi-Catapult propositions and place-based elements of the same. You'll act as one of CPC's key representatives on advisory boards and panels, at events, conferences, workshops and at senior client meetings.
- **Internally**, you will lead and develop a directorate who co-create innovative work programmes with placed-based clients, small and large companies, central and local government, arm's length bodies, devolved administrations, and academia. As an Executive Director you play a key technical quality assurance role, making sure proposals are both truly innovative, deliverable and aligned to our strategy.
- **Strategically**, you'll play a key role in fostering strategic relationships aligned to our organisational strategy. The decisions you make will directly influence

the work we undertake specifically which collaborative research and development funds we enter, with an emphasis on the incremental win rate being one of your key results.

What you need to bring

We are looking for someone with four main areas of expertise:

- Expertise in developing and deploying a technology team in a professional services or research and technology organisation.
- An in-depth knowledge of different types of public sector innovation funding, from UKRI and EU funding programmes, with demonstrable experience in leading, winning and delivering £multi-million grant-funded innovation programmes.
- Experience acting as a champion of different types of innovation projects across a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.
- Significant demonstrable leadership of a high performing team in a rapidly changing environment or complex organisational or market structure.

Key Responsibilities

As an Executive Director you and your team will be responsible for;

- Developing scalable approaches to innovation in and with places, using repeatable projects that build a cohesive narrative spanning different calls and opportunities.
- Ensuring technical excellence across all projects so collaborators and funders are inspired.
- Influencing R&D funders and collaborators with succinct and aligned thought leadership that builds the reputation of our innovation ecosystem, and wider organisation.
- Focusing on delivering impactful opportunities with a minimum projected revenue of >£1M each for CPC.
- Maintaining a calendar of publicly funded R&D competitions, prioritising and ensuring internal quality control processes are fulfilled on time.
- Working with ‘places’, transport authorities and central government departments to understand market barriers and shape pragmatic solution-based innovation requirements.
- Collaborating with private sector companies and academics to understand their R&D ambitions for place-based, digital, decarbonisation, and mobility innovation, as examples
- Working with engagement colleagues to develop appropriate commercial opportunities in an innovative and aligned manner.
- Focusing on opportunities that support organisational cohesion and long-term sustainable growth.
- Leading and growing a directorate that delivers against organisational strategic revenue targets and KPIs.

Your background

You will have a strong academic or technical background, in a STEAM related subject or discipline. You will have gone on to develop your career working in product or service R&D, bringing multiple different technologies, teams, and organisations together.

You will have held senior strategic positions, ideally in more than one organisation, equipping you to work across a wide range of stakeholders which might include established industry leaders, industry associations, standards bodies, start-ups and national and local government. Through this experience you will have a deep understanding of technology development and deployment, and some of the objections and barriers this faces.

You will be familiar with public and private investment tools and mechanisms used to accelerate innovation. You will have considerable practical experience of the benefits and challenges of these innovation funding tools, including involvement in significant sector level funding applications (e.g., Horizon 2020, ISCF, 5GTT, EPRSC). You will be familiar with UKRI and how the academic and other RTO institutions within the UK contribute to technology related economic growth. It would be advantageous if you understood the stages involved with raising private investment and the levels of technology maturity and evidence of business performance required to raise capital at defined investment stages.

You will understand and will be able to succinctly articulate concepts from a wide range of innovative technologies to a diverse audience, such as:

- **Digital:** cloud native data platform environments; data federation & interoperability; identity & trust; cyber; AI; distributed ledger; agile ways of working; open standards.
- **Place-based:** Quintuple helix and systems design thinking; innovation ecosystems; IoT; BIM; GIS; digital twins; people-flow; ‘just transition’; circular economy.
- **Transport:** optimizing multi-modal transport hubs: new forms of electric and hydrogen propulsion; intelligence & autonomy; sensor technology; complex event processing; emissions monitoring; regulatory and safety requirements.

We are aware the role has a broad remit and its hybrid nature means we are not expecting you to be the finished article. The role will provide an opportunity for considerable personal growth and we are looking for exceptional individuals who have a demonstrable track record in a similar role.

You will be familiar with the Catapult Networks role within the UK innovation

landscape and relevant topics such as the creation of UKRI, ARIA and the R&D Roadmap initiative launched by BEIS in 2020. You will have a vision for how the Catapult network can contribute to and increase UK industrial competitiveness and how to deliver its role of convening industry and government to achieve increased UK economic output.

To apply for this role please email us on jobs@cp.catapult.org.uk with your CV and covering letter attached quoting the ref: **CPC441**