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Description

About Låkri Technologies Corporation

Låkri Tech is a technology startup on a mission to catalyze sustainability in high volume chemical processes. We are highly focused on the catalytic conversion of sustainably fermented lactic acid to bio-based acrylics. We integrate chemistry and chemical engineering with fermented feedstocks and separation science to bring novel conversion processes to market. In joining our team, you will create the next page of the bio-based economy. Be part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the chemicals industry for a low carbon future.

Job Description:

We are looking for a Separations Scientist and/or Catalysis Scientist to support and help build our prototype products. You will work with technical and cross-functional teams to develop novel reactions to meet and exceed their prototype goals.

Typical Responsibilities

- Build, develop and optimize chemical separations systems for chemical processes.
- Perform distillation and liquid-liquid extraction in experimental systems and conduct analyses of the test results
- Establish experimental protocols for reliable data acquisition
- Implement chemical reactors and separation apparatus for performance testing in prototypes.
- Ensure and document proper workplace safety during laboratory activity
- Use basic building tools such as wrenches to help install and construct our laboratory.
- Travel up to about 10%, typically to scientific conferences

Requirements

Preferred Education & Qualifications

- Ph.D. in a chemical engineering-related field (e.g. Chemical Engineering, Process Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry or similar).
- Legal authorization to work for Låkri Technologies on your date of hire with no further action required by Låkri Technologies

Results we expect & skills that might be helpful

Results we expect

- Identification of relevant separations routes for commercially interesting products based on literature and patent research as well as on your own scientific background
- The integration of renewable feedstocks, starting materials from “waste”, as well as newest scientific technologies to reduce CO2 equivalents in the routes to C3 compounds whenever possible
- Estimated probability of success for different activities. If required, we’ll teach you how to do it! 😊
- Design apparatus to demonstrate the proof-of-concept of your ideas as well as technical feasibility
- Interpretation of GC or other analytical data and recommendations/ conclusions on how to proceed
- Critical understanding of how proposed ideas fit within concepts already published in open and patent literature and the theoretical underpinning of why the new concept will lead to process improvement
- Summaries of your work for customers and/or the management (written reports, presentations, and/or patent filings in English)
- Presentations of our findings in video calls, personal meetings or at conferences will be also part of the jobs (also in English)

Skills and attitudes that might be helpful

- A post-doc experience is desirable while job experience is a nice to have – one or the other are desired, but we’re far more interested in your skills and desires
- Hands-on experience in industrial laboratory and/or chemical or chemical engineering processes.
- Experience in catalytic reaction development, catalyst synthesis, and chemical process operations
- Experience in separations science and development of distillation or membrane methods
- Experience and ability with ASPEN+
- Working knowledge of Agilent gas chromatography systems is desired
- Ability to lift greater than 9kg and contribute to building out a laboratory environment

- You should be able to handle uncertainty and make estimations based on a limited amount of information without panicking
- In times of high time pressure or uncertainty (which is frequently the case), you don't lose control and you are still able to work. Instead of despair, you organize yourself, talk to others, and set priorities
- You don't wait for others to solve your problems and you don't easily lose faith
- You are naturally persistent, and challenges motivate you
- Knowledge of other languages, cultures, and/or diverse artistic and technical/business talents help us get where we need to go
- Getting results is what drives you, but you know that even the best results are only valuable if they are reproducible. Your working attitude is "Quick & Clean" 😊
- You like to exchange and discuss scientific and technical challenges with others even though it takes a portion of your working day because you understand very well that the whole is more than the sum of its parts
- You enjoy communication and exchange with other team members from sales, marketing, etc. even if you don't have a clue what they are talking about 🤔
- Your entrepreneurial spirit allows you to work proactively as well as economically
- Excellent writing, oral communication, and presentation skills are encouraged. Thus, a firm knowledge of handling Microsoft templates in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Visio are very useful
- In the case of tensions, we expect that you are able to respectfully discuss things at eye level
- Experience in working with agile methods is a plus
- Hands-on attitude: we will happily clean your coffee cup if you forget to – will you have a problem in doing the same for us?

What we offer:

Come help us build the diverse set of skills and backgrounds necessary to commercialize deep technology. You will care about this job. We offer highly result oriented flexible working hours and the integration into an extremely motivated interdisciplinary team. Låkril Technologies strives to be a diverse and inclusive workplace where we can ALL be ourselves. Our dynamic environment enables us to flexibly adapt our organizational structure to the level of expertise required in a project. Sometimes you will learn and sometimes you will have the lead in a project. Unfortunately, we are neither able to pay you Google salaries, nor do we pay them to ourselves. However, we will do our best to accommodate your individual needs and specific circumstances. The position is located at our site on the Near West Side of the City of Chicago and while some level of remote work is possible, a large fraction of working hours will be spent at the laboratory site.

Employee benefits may include: vacation, equity incentives, 401K, health coverage (medical/dental/vision), contribution to a section 132 transit account and more. At Låkril Tech, we believe in fostering an inclusive environment in which employees feel encouraged to share their unique perspectives, leverage their strengths, and act authentically. We welcome those from all backgrounds and varying experiences.