

CPC504 – Circular Futures Lead

Location	London or Milton Keynes
Reporting to	Design Futures Team Lead
Working hours	Full time
Contract type/duration	Permanent
Date written	November 2021
Closing date	9 th January 2022

Connected Places Catapult (CPC) is the UK Centre of Excellence for urban innovation and mobility with a role to catalyse the innovation market in the UK and globally. Our teams provide world-class innovation as a service to support the development of new products and services that enable cities, organisations and businesses to generate new ideas, test concepts and develop new solutions for the UK and beyond.

Human Connected Design

The Human Connected Design (HCD) directorate at Connected Places Catapult is responsible for the strategic use of design, supporting the Catapult in its mission to help grow businesses, to build the UK economy and to service the creation of truly connected places. The directorate puts human needs at the heart of new innovations and technologies and is made up of three dynamic, creative teams: Human Insights, Connected Design and Design Futures. These teams include experts in service design, psychology, sociology and human factors.

The Design Futures Team is responsible for...

- Trends research for use across Catapult projects and strategy
- Visioning possible futures in the context of innovation imperatives – human experience, connected intelligence, and climate action
- Lead thinking around trade-offs and co-benefits between plausible futures
- Developing roadmaps and contingency plans for probable futures
- Creating deterministic and stochastic forecasting models to project the future under specific assumptions
- Use participatory design to build worlds that elicit feelings and discussion about preferred futures

The Catapult is an innovation accelerator – we ask, innovating towards what? ...and suggest how we might get there.

Purpose of the role

We are seeking a Circular Futures Lead capable of presenting, iterating and delivering analytical and novel ideas in a rigorous and collaborative way.

In this role, you will help, promote, and deliver projects that unlock UK innovation and safeguard against market failures.

In addition to the skills and responsibilities below, this role offers a unique opportunity to shape the newly formed Design Futures team and develop meaningful propositions through project and program leadership; Specifically, in the realm of Circularity, which includes but is not limited to the Circular Economy.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead research on materials science innovations and the convergence of supply chains and waste management processes, to identify practical opportunities for up-cycling as well as down-cycling.
- Demonstrate mastery of business model innovation, including ownership and use structures, enabling digital platforms, and the behavioural economic principles that underpin human decision making.
- Apply creative thinking to the application of Circular Principles to relevant focus areas, such as Digital Twins, AR/VR, autonomous robotics, urban planning, the built environment, and various forms of mobility in the pursuit of Circular Futures.
- Manage and lead a range of large and small projects through collaborative leadership of multidisciplinary project teams
- Effectively communicate the value in futures thinking to a broad set of stakeholders, including presentations and public speaking
- Conduct and manage key trends research, to include periodic releases of signals and drivers analysis
- Structure and write key reports and fictional narratives appropriate for public publication
- Use systems thinking to understand context, stakeholders, challenges, opportunities, tensions, and trade-offs to inform the delivery of projects
- Work across the organisation to ensure key insights and perspectives are appropriately represented and considered in projects
- Engage with colleagues across the organisation acting as a domain expert in the design futures domain
- You may be required to undertake any other reasonable duties to support the Catapult in achieving its strategic outcomes and ensure effective business operations.

Required skills and experience

Essentials;

- Demonstrable experience, preferably working in one or more domains – built environment, mobility - in a creative, analytical, or commercial capacity
- Substantive experience working as project lead delivering strategically aligned projects, whilst also acting as a subject matter expert

- Proof of thought leadership: published articles, blog, work samples in the realm of futures studies or foresight
- Deep experience with multiple forms of primary and secondary research methods, synthesis, and the ability to communicate insights visually
- Experience in designing, facilitating, and synthesising workshops, both virtual and in person
- Values generative conversations to play with ideas and is equally enthusiastic to focus on deep independent work, that is - the ability to diverge energetically and converge diligently
- Proclivity to embrace ambiguity, initiate discovery, and synthesise effectively and concisely
- Ability to think critically about trade-offs as well as co-benefits with a propensity to create frameworks and metaphors to communicate new ideas, especially in communicating paradoxes and dichotomies
- Ability to find and understand or create and communicate useful frameworks to structure and communicate thinking
- Growth mindset, courage and initiative to take on new and foreign challenges
- Flexible, with ability to lead multiple projects at the same time and pick up new skills and capabilities as required for different projects
- Collaborative approach to working with the ability to take ownership of small and large tasks
- Self-motivated, attention to detail, and eye for aesthetic
- Moderate to advanced understanding of statistics and statistical modelling
- Experience managing high profile client relationships

Desirable:

- Masters degree or equivalent opportunity to explore theoretical concepts, including evidence of rigorous self-study. We are looking for strong theoretical knowledge and the ability to apply it to practical scenarios
- T-shaped profile; broad understanding of relevant disciplines with deep subject matter expertise in a specific field, such as economics, sociology, anthropology et al.
- Broad interest in design disciplines, including newer practices, such as policy design
- Comfort with using and maintaining moderately advanced excel models
- Global perspective with keen interest in history and international events; professional, academic, or other first-hand experience abroad is a plus
- An understanding of the UK and European collaborative R&D ecosystem would be advantageous
- Visual communicator with requisite design skills, such as InDesign, Illustrator, photoshop, Premier et al.

To apply for this role please email us on jobs@cp.catapult.org.uk with your CV and covering letter attached quoting the ref: **CPC504**

Employment here is based solely upon individual merit and qualifications directly related to professional competence. We strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, colour, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy status, sex, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, mental or physical disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, or any other characteristics protected by law. We also make all reasonable accommodations to meet our obligations under laws protecting the rights of the disabled.