

R&I DIRECTOR POSITION

Aerovac Composites One a leader in the manufacturing and distribution of process materials in the composite industry is looking to hire a strategic leader as our **Research and Innovation Director**. We serve large diverse industries such as Aerospace & Defense, Wind Energy, Automobile, Marine and a variety of industrial markets who gain advantage by utilizing composite manufacturing. This key team member will be part of our Leadership Team and report to the Vice President and General Manager of Aerovac.

The R&I Director, will play a leadership role in partnering with other thought leaders in the organization to optimize the value of our current and future products and technologies, in alignment with brand and customer demand. In addition to providing expertise in polymer film development and support on other film and composite process materials in the resale portion of the business. There will be particular focus on film development for both releases and vacuum bagging applications. These films are typically multi-layer and are manufactured by either blown or cast processes.

This role will own our New Product Integration (NPI) process. As we are a manufacturer of films in our Italy plant, this person must be familiar with main extrusion and converting process, have a solid background in polymer science, in equipment specification and new products development.

Additionally, the R&I Director will work with our sales, tech service and laboratory teams to identify and develop process material solutions to support lowering the costs of manufacturing for our customer base by leading the development of innovative solutions. He/She will also work with Procurement to oversee Aerovac outsourced process and suppliers to assess new opportunity for manufacturing insourcing investments.

This position requires analytical skills, the ability to translate strategic vision into tactical action, synthesize complex issues into actionable solutions, identify the highest impact ideas and plans and focus efforts in a cross-functional team and communicate recommendations effectively to the leadership team

Key Responsibilities

- Lead small team of engineers and technicians in the development of polymer films in both the cast and blown processes. Coordinate with the technical service resources that provide the testing capability for the business.
- Lead efforts of R&D functions: Material Supplier screening and testing and homologation in manufacturing, combined materials development and provide support for procured products screening and initial assessment.
- Create and own the technical roadmap for the business
- Prioritize human and capital resources to achieve department and organizational goals
- Task Planning, Time Estimates, Time Execution, Risk Analysis and Costs
- Work together with our Process Compliance team

- Understand customer needs (internal and external): Support sales programs by leading application engineering and material recommendations. Support recommendations through customer specific interaction, while updating internal testing best practice.
- Support Quality in root-cause / counter-measure investigations for defects and field issues
- Support Operations on cost reduction, new process introduction and manufacturing continuous improvement
- Support new product introduction/homologation at our aerospace customers ensuring material testing, data analysis and review of the data in cooperation with quality and operation to ensure definition of technical and process specifications
- Strategy Execution & Reporting: work with Product Management, Procurement and Sales & Marketing to initiate and lead new material development projects and programs.
- Propose and deliver proof-of-concept ideas related to manufacturing process improvements
- Lead efforts related to alternate raw material sourcing and qualification
- Function as the technical training expert
- Report out project status and key R&I initiatives

Preferred Location:

The preferred location is Mondovi, Italy. However we may consider other arrangements depending upon the candidate.

Languages Preferred: English is a must & Italian would be helpful