



Technical Director

Full time, Permanent

£55,000 - £70,000

Bristol, UK

We are currently looking for a Technical Director, available to start work as soon as possible, to work alongside the CTO to manage the company's R&D pipeline. This role will provide strong organisation support and mentoring to our technical team at a critical phase in our company's growth. The role offers potential for hybrid working, but will require regular in person contact with our technical team based at our premises in St Philips, Bristol. This role is ideal for someone still prepared to be hands-on in the role, leading the delivery of technical requirements in the laboratory.

What we do

Zentraxa is a Bristol-based biotechnology company. Our custom-designed biomaterials are inspired by natural systems and precision engineered to deliver the performance enhancements our target markets are actively seeking. Providing groundbreaking solutions to difficult problems in industry and with a track record of producing adhesives for defence, medical applications, and biodegradable polymers for personal care products. Our proprietary Zentide platform allows us to discover and produce innovative, otherwise inaccessible biomaterials in a repeatable, sustainable, and scalable manner. By making biomaterial solutions more effective & accessible across a range of industries, we aim to contribute to a biomanufacturing revolution and a more sustainable future.

Working at Zentraxa

We see Zentraxa as playing a key role in the long-term mission to adopt more sustainable processes, rooted in biotechnology, across an increasingly wider array of industries. Our mission is to make fermented peptides and proteins more accessible to new industries. We deliver our innovations by rigorous scientific work and thinking creatively about industrial problems. Our belief is that fundamental change requires small steps to deliver a greener future that is economically viable for all.

We provide a supportive and nurturing environment for our employees, offering opportunities for individual growth alongside delivery of the company's core mission and objectives. We ensure our employees have regular one-to-ones and progress reviews, as well as frequent team catchups and socials.

We work and communicate as a team, trusting each other to be in the right place at the right time and to do the right thing so that everyone can balance their work and home commitments in a way that works best for them. We offer flexible working, delivering to company and project needs around a schedule that works for you and your team. Other benefits include 26 days annual leave per year in addition to bank holidays, and eligibility for the company share option scheme.

The Role

The main focus of the role will be to convert the overall company strategic vision into every day, operational steps designed to make that strategic vision a reality. You will provide strong organisation support and mentoring to our technical team being passionate about leading and

coaching a young and ambitious workforce helping to support individual career goals. Alongside a strong set of technical skills you will have strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills; providing inspiration and encouragement to junior team members.

The Technical Director will be responsible for supporting and leading the bioprocess development, and the development of new products by ensuring that their target specification can be met through an industrially viable bioprocess with supporting techno economics. They will be able to work alongside strategic partners to ensure Zentraxa technology integrates into existing manufacturing ecosystems, guaranteeing that process steps are captured in detailed Standard Operating Procedures and enabling efficient technology transfer to research and manufacturing partners. They will be required to manage multiple projects in parallel spanning commercial contracts and grant funded projects. You will work closely with the CTO and management team to create processes, set budgets and lead improvement of these R&D-related activities.

Your main responsibilities will be to:

- R&D programme management, working with the management team to forecast and budget technical projects and to hold responsibility for delivery to budget.
- Ensuring human resources are allocated appropriately across different projects.
- Project controls including administration, reporting and claiming grant funded projects.
- Support preparation of technical documents including project reports and proposals, including grant funded projects.
- Mentoring of technical staff and support training needs of the lab team.
- Realisation / implementation of new project ideas.
- Responsible for maintaining lab efficiency, good laboratory practice and safe working.
- Ensure accurate records are kept to allow full traceability of any experimental data, including checking junior team members lab notes.

The experience we are looking for

We are looking for someone who meets some or all the following criteria:

- In depth knowledge of protein biochemistry and biotechnology, ideally including recombinant protein processes. Desirable to have experience of bioprocess development, technology transfer and techno economics.
- It is expected that the candidate will have early career experience working in a technical role with direct at bench laboratory experience.
- Strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills; providing inspiration and encouragement to junior team members.
- At least 3 years of experience in a leadership role managing and directing other junior scientific team members, some experience in a commercial environment is essential.
- Project management including problem solving, risk management, change management. Experience on reporting on Innovate UK funded projects is desirable.
- Experience implementing and maintaining GLP.
- Proven ability to work on new projects and contribute to experimental design.



- Ability to write up work in scientific reports suitable for sharing externally.
- Ability to troubleshoot problems independently or where appropriate asking for advice.

How to apply

To apply for this position, please email your CV and a covering letter highlighting why you fit the role to info@zentraxa.com. Please include "Technical Director" in the email subject. Any applications without a covering letter will be discarded. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The first step of our hiring process will be an online interview with the CTO & CEO to get to know you and your motivation and fit for this important leadership position. A short list of candidates will then be invited to an on-site interview where we will dive deeper into your technical skills, and you will meet with members of the team and discuss working at Zentraxa.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE: We prefer to fill our roles without the help of recruitment agencies. Thank you in advance for respecting this.

Expected Start Date:

April 2024.

Eligibility and Expectations

- In order to qualify for this position, you **must already be authorised to live and work in the UK, we cannot sponsor visas.**
- You must have respect for others and a commitment and enthusiasm for high standards and continuous improvement.
- At Zentraxa we value diversity. We are an equal opportunities employer and actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds regardless of gender, ethnic origin, disability, age, religion or sexual orientation. Please let us know if you have any special requirements in relation to this recruitment process.

Important information regarding your application:

Please note that we will not be confirming receipt of applications. With regard to an application, the procedure outlined will be followed:

- We will be running a rolling recruitment process and will close the role once it is filled.
- Zentraxa will keep records of your application strictly for recruitment purposes.
- Any recruitment documentation will be kept for 12 months following the job position being filled.
- The successful candidates' recruitment documentation will be kept in accordance with Zentraxa's Internal Personal Data Policy

If you wish for your information to be removed from our records before that date, please mention this in your application.