

AIRTO President (non-executive director)

Remuneration: £24.5K for ~45 days per year



WELCOME

Dear Candidate,

I am delighted that you are interested in becoming the next President of AIRTO.

We are looking for a new President to succeed Steve Yianni FREng, who [will be retiring in 2024](#), to build on the strong foundations laid in recent years to champion the UK's Innovation, Research & Technology (IRT) sector.

The UK's IRT sector is a strategic enabler for businesses. With a combined turnover estimated at ~ £7Bn, it employs over 57,000 scientific and technical staff (equivalent to the academic staffing of the Russell Group of universities). The sector contributes more than £34Bn to UK GDP. IRT organisations work at the interface between academia and industry, for both private and public sector clients. The role of the UK's IRT sector is critical to delivering the [UK's Innovation Strategy](#) providing laboratories, test-beds and world-leading expertise at the disposal of Innovate UK, the UKRI and DSIT.

The next President of AIRTO will play a key role, working alongside our Board and Executive Team, to build influence with policy makers for UK Science and Innovation and articulate the critical role of IRT sector assets in the UK's strategies for growth. These were recently highlighted in the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Landscape Review led by Professor Sir Paul Nurse.

If you think that you would relish working on behalf of our member organisations to 'fly the flag' for the critical work that they do to tackle some of society's most pressing challenges (such as Net Zero, sustainable food production and delivering quality healthcare for an ageing population) and driving economic growth and prosperity for UK plc – then we want to hear from you.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Jamieson
Chair of the Board



ABOUT AIRTO

AIRTO - the Association of Innovation, Research and Technology Organisations - represents the UK's Innovation, Research & Innovation (IRT) sector. Our membership comprises approximately sixty of the principal organisations operating across a diverse range of industry sectors. Members include independent Research and Technology Organisations, Catapult Centres, Public Sector Research Establishments, National Laboratories, and some privately held innovation companies known as RTOs (Research & Technology Organisations).

Our Vision:

Our vision is to '*Make innovation work for our economy*'.

The UK needs to remain globally competitive at innovation to maximise its future economic success. In recognition of this need, the government's Innovation Strategy and subsequent Science & Technology Framework places people, businesses and global collaboration at its core. It sets out ambitions to grow R&D intensity (as a percentage of GDP) and attain global 'Science Superpower' status. These ambitions present an opportunity for AIRTO to harness the potential of the IRT sector to help make innovation work for our economy.

AIRTO aims to lead an ambitious, strong, decisive and influential movement to champion the role of the IRT sector, positively shaping the climate for innovation to benefit the wider economy, along with our national prosperity and quality of life.

Mission:

To achieve the vision of '*making innovation work for our economy*', we:

- work alongside partners in government, industry, finance, and academia to join up capabilities across the IRT sector;
- support our community to provide the UK's innovation capacity, including: Skills and future pipeline of talent, Impact measurement, Thought Leadership, Access to finance, Advocacy, Networking and learning, Access to facilities and capabilities, Commercialisation expertise;
- advocate for the innovation sector to raise its profile and help improve the climate for innovation;
- enable members to improve their business performance via mechanisms to share knowledge and best practice;
- drive diversity and inclusion across the sector to make our organisations the best places to work and attract talent;
- advocate for the sector to play its part in enthusing and training the next generation of leaders in innovation.

Our members:

Our membership comprises approximately sixty of the principal organisations operating in the UK's IRT sector. This important sector has a combined turnover of ~£7Bn, employing over 57,000 scientific and technical staff (equivalent to the academic staffing of the Russell Group of universities) and, for comparison, is significantly larger than the network of Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany, both in size and scope of activities. The sector contributes £34Bn to UK GDP.

AIRTO's members work at the interface between academia and industry, for both private and public sector clients in the UK and overseas. Organisations in this critical sector work with industry, government and academia to promote and implement innovation, and provide technical solutions to challenges and crises. Members cover a wide range of industries from, for example, agriculture and food, pharma and bio, energy generation and distribution, manufacturing and the built environment. They may be industry specific or have cross-sectorial expertise. Members include Independent Research & Technology Organisations (RTOs), Catapult Centres, Public Research Establishments, National Laboratories and privately held innovation organisations.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Position: President, 0.2fte

Reports to: Board of AIRTO

Location: Home working but some travel required for meetings in person

Remuneration: £24.5K plus travel expenses

Purpose of the role:

Our President is a champion for the UK's Innovation, Research & Technology (IRT) sector, working on behalf of our member organisations to 'fly the flag' for the critical work that they do to tackle some of society's most pressing challenges - such as Net Zero, sustainable food production and delivering quality healthcare for an ageing population - and driving economic growth and prosperity for UK plc.

Who are we looking for?

Our ideal candidate will be passionate about the vital role of science and innovation to transform society - by creating dynamic and sustainable solutions to critical problems, and to stimulate economic growth. You may be a former Chief Executive. You will have experience of working in the IRT sector, ideally having worked for a Catapult Centre, an independent Research & Technology Organisation (RTO) or Public Sector, Research Establishment (PSRE).

You will be an adept networker and confident at advocating AIRTO's position with policy makers and government officials at ministerial level. Enthusiastic about the role that public policy plays in shaping the best possible climate for innovation in the UK, you will support AIRTO's work to attract the brightest and best people, to stimulate investment and to level-up communities. You will be excited to join our team and help shape the vision for our sector to play a leading role in the delivery of the UK's [Innovation Strategy](#).

Main tasks:

1. Stakeholder Management

- a. Engagement with government.
- b. Engagement with other key stakeholder organisations - such as RAEng, Royal Society, CaSE, Nesta, CBI, professional bodies and membership bodies - to amplify the AIRTO voice.
- c. Engagement with AIRTO members, particularly at CEO and senior levels.
- d. Chair for various mechanisms of engagement with members, e.g., three-weekly CEOs' meeting, regional events.
- e. Outward facing activities with other interested parties, as circumstances dictate.
- f. Support to the Executive Director in securing new members to AIRTO.
- g. Influencing and actively participating in/contributing to policy debates on innovation, e.g., responding to government consultations and roundtable discussions as required.

2. Acting as a public voice for AIRTO

- a. Circumstances may dictate for there to be a public voice for AIRTO members, which will ordinarily be fulfilled by the President or Chair.
- b. Speaking events.
- c. Chairing AIRTO events, such as conferences & webinars.
- d. Key role in launch events on AIRTO commentary/policy statements.
- e. Representation of the AIRTO membership as circumstances dictate.
- f. Convening and leading conversation with members and allied organisations and government stakeholders on policy related matters.

3. Leadership on key policy statements & consultations

- a. Identifying and shaping a policy agenda for the IRT sector.
- b. Chair roundtable events to consult and collate views from AIRTO members, enrol the support of the Board on policy statements, and draw in comment from/consult with like-minded interested parties, such as Nesta, CaSE, CBI, Royal Society and RAEng.
- c. If requested by government, Chair policy studies and engage with a broad cross-section of members and other like-minded bodies, to form an output for government as specified in their brief to AIRTO.

4. Support for the Executive Director

- a. Working with the AIRTO Executive team, shape and deliver strategy for AIRTO and act as a sounding board on components of AIRTO's delivery plan.
- b. Deliver on agreed aspects of AIRTO's workplan, e.g., consulting with members on compilation of policy statements.
- c. As required, Chairing Special Interest Groups, roundtable events, or other member-based meetings.
- d. Support to the AIRTO Executive team, as required.

5. Board Support for the Chair of the Board

- a. The Chair of the Board chairs meetings, but the President will deputise for the Chair to ensure the role is supported as necessary (e.g., in their absence), adding resilience to the organisation.
- b. Co-ordinate with the Chair and Executive Director and wider AIRTO team on stakeholder management, which may include being the "go-to" person for AIRTO engagement.
- c. Lead and negotiate on behalf of the Board where a neutral Director is mandated (i.e., a non-Member Director), to execute specific agreements of strategic importance which arise periodically, e.g., management services contract and succession planning for Board.

6. Board Director responsibilities

- a. In addition to the legal responsibilities of any Board director, undertake the following activities, working with other Board Directors and the AIRTO Executive team:
 - i. AIRTO Strategy compilation;
 - ii. Write and present Board papers;
 - iii. Undertake leadership of specific actions as requested by the Board;
 - iv. Signature responsibility for financial approvals as required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

Abilities:

- Leadership track record, demonstrating a strategic mindset and an ability to communicate vision.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, articulate, demonstrating gravitas, convening power with public speaking capabilities.
- Adept at networking with established relationship building capabilities.
- Negotiating and influencing skills, with persistence and a visibly calm and considered approach.
- Insight into the organisational landscape for RDI in the UK.
- Familiarity with good governance practices.
- Adept at operating and chairing formal meetings and roundtable discussions online and in-person.
- Basic capabilities in Office 365 applications (Word, Outlook, Powerpoint and Excel).

Knowledge and experience:

- Track record of operating in the IRT sector;
- Experience of engaging on public policy in relation to science and technology, the organisation landscape and key players at the highest levels of decision making.
- Awareness of funding landscape and workforce issues/people pipeline.

Style and Approach:

- A collegiate and consultative style.
- A commitment to team working.
- Adherence to key values including - fairness, equality, diversity and inclusion, integrity and honesty, respect and dignity in the workplace.

DESIRABLE

Knowledge and experience:

- Awareness of current policy landscape for science and innovation.
- Awareness of some of the key relevant sectors/topics, e.g., Net Zero, manufacturing, healthcare/life sciences, agriculture, artificial intelligence.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a CV and covering letter summarising your fit for the role and motivations to apply to [AIRTO President Recruitment](#) by Monday 18 September 2023.

For an informal conversation please contact AIRTO's Executive Director ([Dr. Jane Gate](#)).

RECRUITMENT TIMETABLE

Closing date: 5pm on Monday 18 September 2023

Interviews: will take place in early October 2023

A final decision: is expected to be made by the end of October 2023