Job Description:

Research and Knowledge Management Specialist

Purpose of the Job

Purpose Statement:

To research economic indicators and industry statistics critical to the industry and to collaborate and influence research projects. To maintain access to key industry information and create a knowledge hub.

To assist Management in achieving Plastics|SA's vision of **creating a vibrant and sustainable plastics industry** that is:
- valued and respected by local and international industry, customers, suppliers, government, community and employees;
- promoting the use of plastics as the material of choice;
- developing the skills needed through accredited training programmes;
- supporting environmentally responsible actions that benefit industry and society.

The following are key deliverables for this function:
- Research economic indicators and industry statistics critical to the industry.
- Collaborate with Government and other research bodies in specific research activities.
- Identify industry information gaps and implement initiatives to fill these data gaps.
- Initiate and influence direction of research activities.
- Create a knowledge hub where relevant industry information, research reports, trends and data analysis are available.

Reporting Structure

The position reports directly to the Technical Operations Executive of Plastics|SA and is based in Plastics|SA's Midrand Office, Gauteng.

Minimum Requirements

- Degree in Commerce; Economics; Polymer Science or other relevant qualification.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in industry specific research challenges and issues.
- Sound knowledge of the plastics industry is essential.

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- A working network of contacts with academia, research institutions and officials in key national departments (e.g. DSTI, DTIC, STATSSA, Universities, etc.) will be an advantage.

Experience
- Strong technical and analytical capabilities in research, project and data management.
- Proven success through both personal efforts and collaborative efforts with others/partners.
- Ability to work confidently, persuasively and to stand ground, in order to earn the respect of both internal/external stakeholders.
- Good communication skills in terms of presenting research information in a logical and simple way.
- Ability to manage complex projects and operate in multi-disciplinary forums.
- Effective report writing skills.
- Ability to flourish with minimal guidance, be proactive, and handle uncertainty.
- Proficient in Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint.

Responsibilities

RESEARCH
- Research economic indicators and industry statistics critical to the industry.
- Collaborate with industry and other research bodies in specific research activities as agreed upon.
- Implement initiatives to fill industry information data gaps and influence direction of research activities to meet industry needs and gaps.
- Collaborate with role-players who have specialised knowledge, or are involved in the various aspects of industry challenges so that workable solutions can be devised for the South African context.
- Examine information relevant to an industry challenge and determine the methods of analysis.
- Use statistical analysis, simulations, predictive modeling, or other methods to analyze information and develop practical solutions to industry challenges.

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- Advise manager on the effects of various courses of action and assist in developing solutions to problems.
- Prepare and produce statistical reports and other documents, explaining their findings and recommendations.
- Represent the Plastics Industry on various forums and structures as agreed to from time to time.
- Keep abreast of current industry developments and trends.
- Identify, understand, analyse and communicate content clearly, accurately, quickly and succinctly with recommendations for action.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Plastics|SA intends to be a reliable source of transparent, evidence based, trustworthy research and knowledge where interested parties can access statistics, research papers, trend analysis and factual information.

- Develop and maintain an "open source" knowledge hub where relevant industry information, research reports, trends and data analysis are available.
- Collect and organize information from a variety of sources, such as international research institutions, global plastics associations and other relevant sources.
- Manage research depository and verify compliance with knowledge hub.
- Monitor downtime of hub and report problems.

If you meet the above criteria and would like to apply, please send curriculum vitae and details of current remuneration to anton.hanekom@plasticssa.co.za before 10 January 2022

All candidates on the final shortlist will be submitted to a psychometric assessment.