



Position: Chemical Operations Manager

Company:

At Stony Creek Colors, a recently formed, growing company based in Nashville, TN, we deliver the most reliable and sustainable plant-based colorants to the textile industry worldwide, helping fashion brands meet their goal of reducing hazardous chemical use. Stony Creek Colors has developed complete agricultural supply chains based on specialty crops like indigo and black walnut to replace petroleum-based synthetic textile dyes with a reliable, consistent, and U.S. grown colorant.

Job Description:

The mission of the Operations Manager (OM) is to expand SCC's manufacturing capabilities to meet growing market demand for our bio-based colorants. The position will scale up manufacturing processes from R&D lab to pilot manufacturing, converting plant material into high purity, industrial textile colorants. The OM will lead processing of up to 1200 tons of plant biomass/day in peak season, responsible for in-house processing in pilot equipment and coordination with toll processing partner. The OM will be responsible for sourcing new and used equipment, and adapting existing equipment. The OM will evaluate and optimize existing processes at pilot scale and scaleup these processes from 250 gal batches to 10,000 gal batches. Manufacturing processes and in-process controls for the production of three main colorant products are to be evaluated, validated and finalized by Nov 2015. Following the Fall 2015 production season, the OM will provide master manufacturing formulas for Spring 2016 plant design. The OM will work with the manufacturing plant design engineers to specify and design a larger scale extraction and processing facility to be built in 2016.

This hands-on position will oversee and regularly process pilot batch extractions and is an excellent opportunity to join the process team of a growing company transforming raw plant material into natural colorants. The OM will work closely with both in-house chemists to ensure processing results in high quality dyestuffs for a range of textile substrates and with the agricultural team to plan harvest dates, compile yield and mass balance data, and ensure efficient processing of crops. The OM will lead a processing team and be a liaison with the chemistry team for the development and testing of new extraction and processing methods.

Job Outcomes:

1. Process batches up to 1200 lbs fresh or dried plant biomass into purified powdered dyestuff.
2. Evaluate and optimize production formulas and process controls. By Nov 2015, provide master manufacturing formula for 2016 plant design.
3. Ensure data integrity of both main pilot manufacturing batches and distinct experimental plot biomass to ensure replicability and consistency among batches.
4. Work with toll processing partners on necessary contract manufacturing.

5. Work with chemistry team on piloting post-extraction chemical modifications to develop new colors from existing material base.
6. Minimize batch variability in pilot batches of concentrated dyestuff and work with Chemistry team on QA to analyze final products using available analytical methods.
7. Provide equipment upgrade recommendations and maintain equipment, as well as source new and used equipment for purchase or lease.
8. Work with contract engineering firm to design a new larger scale facility including plant layout and equipment specifications for 2016 factory scale up. Provide budget estimates of equipment and construction requirements.

Other General Requirements:

Desire to join a small, dynamic and rapidly growing entrepreneurial organization. This will be an ideal position for an employee with a desire to continuously expand technical and managerial skills in a fast paced environment.

Previous natural product, extraction, purification or dyestuff manufacturing experience not required but highly desired. Must have an eagerness to bring process engineering techniques and a can-do attitude to our work to transform the bio-based colorants industry.

Must be familiar with a variety of chemical engineering unit operations and mass/energy transfer, including but not limited to fluid flow processes, heat transfer, extraction, purification, and mechanical processes (screening/sieving, crushing, solids transport).

During on-farm processing seasons, must be willing and happy to work outside and to handle of large volumes of plant biomass.

Comfortable working with or learning to safely operate heavy equipment, including hoists, pallet fork/skid loader, tractor. Ability to lift 40 lbs and work on equipment.

Maintenance of clean, safe laboratory space and pilot processing equipment.

Maintain an accurate and legible lab notebook for the protection of company intellectual property.

Work with R&D team to maintain adequate stocks of necessary processing supplies and a neat and orderly working environment. Safety and environmental responsibilities include overseeing solid and liquid waste disposal and training of staff on safe operation procedures.

Regular in-region travel to farm and processing sites required.

Work with company leadership to set individual goal for operational employees, takes responsibility of cross training employees for continuous production in case of personnel shortages.

Competencies:

AAS, BS, MS in chemical engineering, process chemistry, operations research, or related chemistry or engineering field. 6-10 years of industry experience in process development/management, operations, or chemical engineering.

Detail-oriented, practical problem-solver, self-motivated, ability to follow through with plan yet flexible to adapt to changing needs, ability to work on multiple priorities at one time, good organizational skills with attention to detail, open-minded and innovative, diligent in collection and reporting of data. Candidate will ideally be familiar with solid and liquid handling as well as extraction, purification, filtration and drying unit operations and equipment. Candidate must have high standards for consistency and quality, bring new ideas to the company and comply with all safety, health, and environmental requirements required by the state of Tennessee. Preference for those experienced in Lean Six Sigma methodologies or another formal process improvement methodology.

Location:

The manager will be responsible for process validation at field sites in Northern Middle Tennessee with portable processing equipment, in Goodlettsville at the company processing facility/laboratory, as well as coordination and potential travel to regional toll manufacturing partners.

Compensation:

SCC's Operations Manager position is a full-time position, with benefits including health care reimbursement and a matching retirement program. Compensation commensurate with experience.

To Apply:

Please submit cover letter and résumé to jobs@stonycreekcolors.com with "Operations Manager Position" in the subject line. This is a full-time position to be filled as soon as possible and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until March 2015. This job will be based at SCC's laboratory and pilot processing facility in Northern Davidson County. Come see why Nashville, Tennessee is ranked top 10 in the country by Forbes Magazine for Best Places for Business and Careers!

SCC is a growing company with a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in employment. We are committed to providing a safe and inclusive work environment, with opportunities for growth and professional development.