Lead Design Engineer

Job Description | July 2023

IKAWA Coffee

We design and manufacture transformational, innovative systems to improve the quality and appreciation of coffee. Our patented technology is recognised as industry leading, sold in 100+ countries and used to roast over 1 million times per year.

Our products currently consist of coffee roasting machines together with supporting apps and a range of curated green coffees.

The award winning IKAWA Pro Series is used by coffee professionals to advance coffee quality by helping them improve their evaluation of green coffees. It is a disruptor in this sector and is being used throughout the global coffee value chain by industry leaders.

Our IKAWA Smart Home Coffee Roaster System brings coffee to life and is aimed at coffee connoisseurs and enthusiasts. This system is designed to provide a simple and accessible approach to coffee roasting and includes a coffee roaster, selection of green coffees, roast recipes and the IKAWA Home app.

IKAWA

Role

We are seeking a Design Engineer with 3+ years in R&D to manage our current product development, both digital & physical. You will become the knowledge centre for all things technical at IKAWA and work to continuously share that knowledge across the wider business. You will champion engineering best practices, and implement systems and controls to manage the product development cycle.

IKAWA is a small, friendly and highly ambitious company. This role would be a great opportunity for someone who would like a position where they can really make a difference. We are not only looking for someone who can manage projects but someone full of intelligent ideas who can help us solve problems in all areas of the business.

First 6 months: We are imminently shipping our first batch of next gen hardware and user facing apps. You would quickly get up to speed on both the hardware and app. As the development closes out, you would work on maturing IKAWA's continuous improvement and NPD processes with key stakeholders, ready to start on the next generation IKAWA products.

Key areas of responsibility
- End-to-end ownership of the delivery of both digital and physical development projects.
- Delivery of key project tasks including prototyping and testing.
- Management of mobile application development team using Agile methodology.
- Maintenance of existing and development of new processes and procedures.
- Creation of project plans and budgets.
- Maintaining technical documentation.
- Monitoring of project performance and project risks to ensure milestones are met.
- Communication of project status updates to technical and non-technical stakeholders.
- Oversight of pipelines and triggers to ensure flow of data.
- Provision of necessary support to project tendering.
- Management of consultants supporting project tasks.

Experience, Skills and Personal Qualities
- 3+ years experience in product development (preferably some in an SME).
- Higher education qualification in an engineering or computer science discipline.
- Managed at least one project from start to finish.
- Experience in low to medium volume production methods (100s to 1,000s).
- Understanding of compliance with standards and directives.
- Strong understanding of verification & validation activities.
- Practical understanding of embedded systems, firmware, communication protocols, PCB design, manufacturing and production line assembly and testing.
- Exceptional computer literacy including prior experience of writing in at least one programming language.
- Confidence in communicating both with engineers and senior managers both internal and external.
- Confidence in using common workshop equipment and 3D printers.
- Capable of working independently with minimal supervision.
- Assertive with ability to set priorities.
- Flexible and willing to adapt to business needs.
- Detail focused and moderately risk averse.
- Ability to communicate candidly.
- Can do attitude, eagerness to learn, make an impact and push through change.

Nice to Haves
- Previous experience leading a technical team.
- Experience in mobile application, embedded systems projects & domestic appliances.

Location
This is an office-based role in our London headquarters. Our expectation is that you work from the office but we are flexible with your need to work from home on occasions.

Contract
Full time (Monday – Friday). Immediate start available. Notice periods considered.

Remuneration
Competitive salary based on experience.
22 days' holiday (increasing 1 per year up to 25) plus bank holidays.
Company benefits include one of our Home Roasters, team incentives and activities, perks, occasional travel, L&D opportunities, access to company pension scheme, ride to work scheme.

Application
Please provide evidence of previous work or projects, a recent CV and a cover letter of a maximum one page, including what excites you most about this role, and setting out how your experience meets the job description.

Please send applications to hr@ikawacoffee.com.