

Job Title: Experienced Process Engineer/Scientist

About Spiber:

Spiber Inc. is a Japanese biotech startup that designs and produces structural protein materials to be used to create innovative new types of materials. Established in 2007, Spiber's platform technology allows protein to be tailored at the molecular level to suit users' specific material needs. The range of properties that proteins can express in material applications is far broader than that of petrochemical polymers and bioplastics. By changing the gene sequence that codes for a target protein, properties such as strength, elasticity, water resistance, and more can be modified in the target material application. Spiber learns the requirements of end-users through strategic partnerships, designs suitable proteins, produces them through fermentation, then processes them into various forms as needed for the end application. End applications include fibers, resins, films, gels, sponges, and others without limit. Spiber's industrial material platform is forging a path to a new sector of biomaterials for a plethora of applications, including lighter, higher performance automotive and aerospace parts, apparel, and more.

Spiber America LLC is the US subsidiary of Spiber Inc. We are currently undertaking the creation of the world's largest structural protein fermentation production capacity, with facilities spread across multiple countries. With this expansion, Spiber aims to manufacture sustainable protein-based materials to directly compete against animal-based fibers such as silk and cashmere wool.

About the Position:

We are seeking a highly skilled Senior Process/Operations Engineer to join our team in Eastern Iowa. This role is responsible for analyzing operational data for KPI, reports, and justifying changes, management of change, small project execution, compliance in safety, environmental, and fiduciary matters, and preparing data toward new project designs.

This role will be able to fulfill many duties remotely but will require regular (weekly) visits to the facility in Clinton, Iowa and may additionally require business trips to other Spiber Group locations (Japan, Thailand). Candidates must be in a position to readily be at our location in Eastern Iowa on an as-needed basis.

The successful candidate will have experience not only in following established processes but iterating on those processes and generating new ones at a greater scale.

The best candidates will exhibit adaptability, creativity, and will strive for constant development.

Key Responsibilities:

- Analyze operational data for key performance indicators (KPIs), reports, and justifying changes to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness.
- Manage changes to plant operations, including changes to equipment, procedures, and systems.
- Lead process experiments to achieve goals of R&D, Business Development, and Operations groups.
- Execute small-scale projects to improve plant operations, including scope development, cost estimating, project scheduling, and project execution.
- Ensure compliance with safety, environmental, and fiduciary regulations and policies.
- Prepare data toward new project designs and provide input into the design of new projects.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams, including engineering, maintenance, and operations, to identify and implement process improvements.
- Lead or participate in incident investigations and root cause analyses.
- Participate in emergency response planning and drills.
- Auditing materials consumption and reports of the same.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering or advanced degree in Biochemistry or Biotechnology.
- Experienced in process engineering or research efforts in a production facility.
- Strong analytical skills, including the ability to analyze complex data and develop actionable insights.
- Experience managing change in a plant environment, including knowledge of change management principles and techniques.
- Strong project management skills, including scope development, cost estimating, project scheduling, project execution, and reporting on project status.
- Knowledge of safety, environmental, and fiduciary regulations and policies.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to work effectively with cross-functional teams.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office, particularly Excel and PowerPoint. Experience with process simulation software (e.g., Aspen Plus) is a plus.
- US, Japanese or Thai citizenship

- English language proficiency; Japanese or Thai language proficiency strongly desired.
- Ability to carry 50 lbs. of materials without assistance.
- Climb stairs and ladders without assistance.
- Ability to work within hot and cold environments.

Core Values:

- A sense of engagement and responsibility towards Spiber's projects.
- The capacity for flexibility in the pursuit of maximizing the team's performance.
- Willingness to step outside individual areas of specialization.
- An appreciation for new experiences and challenges.
- Ability to deliver and share our company's culture and image.
- Ability to work under pressure and react to an ever-changing environment.

Compensation and Benefits:

- Spiber utilizes a unique salary system in which employees declare their salary. To learn more about this system, see our website: <https://spiber.inc/en/join/>
- The expected salary range for this position is \$100,000 to \$140,000.
- We offer a competitive benefits package and opportunities for professional development and advancement. This includes health insurance covered 100% by the Company, dental and vision coverage, and 401(k) plans in addition to language training, per diem when traveling for business, and stipend for personal wellness.

We look forward to reviewing your application materials to find a good fit for our expanding team.