



Rutherford Cross



POSITION PROFILE

Interim Director  
of Finance



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## The centre for Engineering Precision Innovation in farming

Aiming to revolutionise  
farming & food systems  
through precision technology

[www.agri-epicentre.com](http://www.agri-epicentre.com)





Agri-EPI Centre (short for Agricultural Engineering Precision Innovation Centre) is one of four Agri-Tech centres ([Agri-Tech Centres](#)) established by the UK government in 2015. Agri-EPI Centre focuses on the delivery of research, development, demonstration and training on precision agriculture and engineering for the livestock, arable, horticulture and aquaculture sectors. Agri-EPI receive £5.8m government funding and are headquartered in Edinburgh.

Agri-tech is the use of technology for farming that is developed to improve efficiency and profitability and Agri-EPI Centre is the 'go to' enabler of innovation in precision agriculture.

We are a member-based organisation and currently work with more 200 members to deliver Research and Development projects in agriculture by way of our four UK Hubs (Edinburgh, Newport - Shropshire, Shepton Mallet - Somerset and Cranfield – Bedfordshire) - each developing its own distinct Agri-Tech focus.

We have also invested in a Farm Network in the UK and internationally. The farms are testbeds for research and development to aid the development of solutions that improve productivity and operational efficiency within the sector. The network measures variances in production yields within each farming system using cutting edge precision agriculture equipment and sensors.

The Agri-EPI Centre Vision is Transforming, driving growth and supporting innovative solutions to help farmers and agri-food businesses become more sustainable and profitable and Mission is

Our work is about providing scientifically robust and commercially viable solutions to improve productivity and sustainability within the food production system using cutting-edge precision technologies, robotics and autonomous solutions and engineering technologies, and using data to reduce variance at producer level.





<b>Job Title:</b>	Interim Director of Finance
<b>Reports to:</b>	Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Due to a recent resignation Agri-EPI are looking to appoint a new experienced hands-on Director of Finance on an interim basis. The position is initially for an interim period until 31st March 2024 (and may be extended according to funding). Reporting to the COO, you will be part of the senior management team and lead a small finance team who are based across 2 remote locations.

Detailed below are the duties, person specification and qualifications required for this post. This will be used as the basis for shortlisting for the post.

We are looking for a qualified accountant (ACCA, CIMA, AC) with significant post qualification experience in a charitable, public sector, academic or SME commercial organisation. Initially anticipated to be a hands-on role, we want our new Director of Finance to develop the finance team and support the development and automation of processes and systems to enable the Director of Finance role to develop a wider strategic focus.

- Prepare monthly management reports for the senior management team and provide a business partner approach to informing the decisions of the Executive Management Team (EMT)
- Prepare and present the quarterly Board finance report
- Support the finance team to engage with project managers and budget holders regarding P&L variances helping them to manage to budget
- Manage all day to day aspects of the finance function
- Support bid processes for CR&D projects
- Prepare and present the annual budget to EMT and to the Board
- Liaise with auditors and prepare audited accounts
- Oversee tax compliance including VAT and Corporation Tax returns
- Manage our monthly claims process with Innovate UK (our grant funder)



The successful candidate will be a qualified accountant who is extremely hands on, with excellent leadership capabilities and commercial acumen to support the ongoing development of both the finance team and the business as a whole.

## Skills, Knowledge & Abilities

- Knowledge and experience of funded businesses or project and grant funding accounting is essential
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal with a track record of presenting to Boards
- Excellence in budgeting and forecasting
- Able to tell the story of finance to non-financial people
- Excellent Excel skills
- Evidence of staff development skills
- Evidence of implementing continuous improvement within a finance function
- Experience of Xero accounting system desirable but not essential





<b>Salary:</b>	The annual salary will be £80,000. Any cost of living increases are normally awarded on annually. 10 % employer pension contributions (People's Pension) and 35 days holiday including bank holidays
<b>Contract type:</b>	Interim until 31st March 2024
<b>Location:</b>	Edinburgh Hub, Agri-EPI Centre Ltd. Northern Agri-Tech Innovation Hub, Easter Bush, Midlothian, EH25 9RG
<b>Working hours:</b>	Normal working week of five days (Monday to Friday) comprising of 37 hours (excluding lunch breaks); Staff may be expected to attend occasional evening and weekend meetings/events. Reasonable notice will be given and the post holder may take compensatory time off in lieu (known as TOIL). The business is working under a hybrid model with the expectation of a minimum of 2 days per week in the Edinburgh office

For more information on remuneration please contact Derek Lauder at Rutherford Cross.



**Derek Lauder, CFO Services**

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## The Recruitment Process

- First round interviews are with our retained advisor Derek Lauder at Rutherford Cross
- Second round interviews are with COO at Agri-Epi
- Applications should be sent to Derek Lauder at Rutherford Cross at [dereklauder@rutherfordcross.com](mailto:dereklauder@rutherfordcross.com)