

JOB OPENING: Curious Metallurgical R&D Engineer

Washington Mills Electro Minerals Corporation,
1801 Buffalo Ave.
PO Box 423
Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Company Description

Washington Mills is one of the largest producers of high-quality abrasive and fused mineral products in the world. It has facilities throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe and serves a global customer base. Its principal business is the fusing of oxide and carbide minerals in electric arc and Acheson furnaces, as well as the grinding and classifying of the minerals into grains and powders. Established in 1868, Washington Mills continues a long history of excellence in serving raw materials to the abrasive, refractory, ceramic and industrial abrasive markets.

Job Description

Washington Mills is looking to hire a Research & Development (R&D) Engineer to work in its Niagara Falls, NY R&D center. The job will work directly with and report to the company's R&D Director. Washington Mills is in the business of fusing minerals in electric arc furnaces and crushing and grading the materials into different sizes. The R&D group is responsible for improving existing products and processes, creating new products and working with customers and prospects to fulfill unique and proprietary product requests. The R&D work is a hands-on job working directly with minerals in molten, grain and powder form, as well as the equipment involved in the manufacturing process. The job entails some or all of the following job functions: conducting experiments at the lab and pilot scale manufacturing facility, managing those facilities, running a small electric arc furnace, running small kilns, operating small crushing and classification equipment, reporting on experiments, following scientific process, experimenting with fusing new mineral formulations, specifying, and learning how to use new pilot scale equipment, interpreting laboratory results, handling multiple projects simultaneously, working closely with the technical staff of customer accounts, Washington Mills' salespeople, and the manufacturing team, and keeping current with new technological developments in crushing, milling, and air classification systems. The R&D Engineer will be required to design and run experiments, as well as interact directly with customers and potential customers to develop the desired products. The ideal candidate will have a curious mind, a can-do attitude, like hands on mechanical work, be passionate about working on new products, and will be eager to bring in new business. The candidate must also be able to write clear and concise reports, communicate with peers, managers and subordinates, and show supervisory skill of both people and projects. The R&D group is an important part of Washington Mills' internal growth strategy and therefore this job will interact with many facets of the company.

Essential Functions

- Operating pilot scale equipment
- Design and conduct experiments and document results
- Working with analytical laboratory equipment and analyzing results
- Working with manufacturing and maintenance staff
- Direct Technicians in performance of experiments and other technical tasks
- Develop new products and improve existing ones
- Working directly with the technical contact of a customer account
- Travel to customers locations and to vendors for meetings and trials
- Develop a knowledge and aptitude for the art and science of melting minerals, crushing and particle sizing.
- Collaborate in a team environment

- Investigate product development factors such as ease of manufacture, availability of materials and equipment, interchangeability, strength-weight efficiency, contractual specification requirements, cost-defining recommendations, and change proposals
- Develop reports and documentation in response to technical information requests
- Contributes to supporting documentation for procedures and technical reports
- Adopts lean product development and standard engineering development and techniques
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops, reviewing technical publications, and/or participating in professional associations
- Work assignments may include cross-functional or project team responsibilities
- Contributes and supports other teams or individuals as needed
- Prepare and present technical data to internal and external customers
- Participate on teams assigned to address specific organizational initiatives

Required Background/Skills

- BS in Engineering: Relevant degrees may include Materials Science, Ceramic Engineering, Metallurgy, Chemical or Mechanical Engineering
- Hands-on mechanical capability
- Manufacturing experience preferred, but not required
- Some knowledge of oxide and carbide material characteristics and behavior
- Experience with mineral/materials characterization
- Some knowledge of abrasive, refractory, foundry, steel, ceramic products/industries
- Experience in the areas of mining, metallurgy, steel industry, abrasives, geology, powder processing, high temperature materials
- Motivated and organized, able to deliver quality results on time
- Creative and curious mind
- Ability to work independently and remain self-motivated
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to effectively use MS Office applications to create reports, spreadsheets, and presentations

Compensation/Benefits

Washington Mills offers a comprehensive and competitive benefit package including:

- Paid at a rate commensurate with experience
- Medical and dental plans heavily subsidized by Company when working thirty hours or more
- Company-paid life insurance
- 401(k) with an employer match and employer discretionary contribution at six months
- On-site parking
- Immediate paid vacation and holidays
- Family-friendly sick and personal leave

The above statement reflects the general details considered necessary to describe principal functions of the job identified and shall not be construed as a detailed description of all the work requirements that may be inherent in the job.

If interested, please submit resume to niagarafallsjobs@washingtonmills.com

Washington Mills is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to workforce diversity. M/F/D/V. Qualified minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are strongly encouraged to apply.