



Date: February 2024

Role: Director/VP of Powder Processing

The Company: Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Stratus Materials is an early-stage, technology-based company focused on the development and manufacture of advanced cathode active materials for the lithium-ion battery industry. Our primary focus is on advanced electric vehicle batteries, but our materials will also be applicable and very attractive for virtually all other end-user applications using lithium-ion batteries. In 2023, the company began sampling its cathode powders to a variety of potential customers and partners. If you are interested in a dynamic, high-growth opportunity where you can dig in and make a difference, we look forward to meeting you.

Summary of Position: The Director/VP of Powder Processing at Stratus Materials will be directly responsible for the stand-up, operation and evolution of our Pre-Pilot and Pilot powder production lines that produce our LXMO cathode active materials. This role will work closely with R&D, process development, process engineering, quality, and test engineering to ensure that our materials are manufactured to specifications in a highly controlled manner. The preferred candidate will be strong in the fundamentals of functional ceramic powder (preferably Li-ion battery material) synthesis, equipment utilization, outstanding in high-quality and high-safety production, and be able to leverage a cross-functional team to meet the goals of the company.

Responsibilities

- Collaborate closely with R&D, Process Development, Quality and Product teams to meet company objectives.
- Perform manufacturing process introduction, validation, and improvements. Spearhead the stand-up, start-up, and ongoing operation of a new Pilot line in 2024.
- Build and lead an operations team focused on producing established as well as experimental cathode materials on Stratus' Pre-Pilot line.
- Directly manage operators, supervisors, manufacturing/process engineers, and procurement staff.
- Establish and maintain a manufacturing system that meets safety, quality, volume, and cost by establishing process workflows, layouts, standard time and costs.
- Provide support to the team in design for manufacturing, including conducting make vs buy analysis.
- Implement quality controls and data collection strategies that enable stable production and continuous improvement.
- Oversee the Manufacturing Reliability Strategy of equipment, including preventative maintenance programs, cleaning programs, spare parts management, lock out tag out procedures etc.

Requirements – Education, Experience, and Skills:

- Minimum 10 years of experience in an operational or operational excellence role and 3+ years of leadership experience in Li-Ion cathode synthesis. Lithium metal oxide experience is preferred. Strong familiarity with Li-Ion battery industry is a plus.
- Bachelors or advanced degree in engineering, manufacturing, or a related field.
- Experience building and leading world-class manufacturing teams.
- Deep experience in chemical manufacturing line design, installation, commissioning, and production ramp for new processes.
- Familiar with production, maintenance, warehousing and internal logistics in battery materials industry or chemical process industry.
- Experience in Product Development Process and Design for Manufacturing (DFM)
- Strong knowledge of variety of systems & tools applied in operational excellence (Lean, 6 sigma, VSM, TOC, TPM, 5S) and experience in implementing operational excellence on the work floor.
- Proven track record of working with relevant supply chain partners and equipment vendors.
- Demonstrated leadership and management skills.
- Strong intuition and judgment on technical topics
- Proven ability to lead data-driven decision making and establishing credibility with others at all levels of an organization.
- Team builder that thrives in a fast-paced start-up environment.
- Ability to handle multiple, competing priorities in a continuously changing environment
- Strong communications, interpersonal, analytical, and computer skills

Requirements – Geographic and Physical:

- Job located in Pittsburgh, PA
- Able to frequently move about an office and stand on a production floor.
- Occasional light lifting and ascending/descending stairs

Along with an exceptional culture and an opportunity to make a global difference, Stratus Materials offers a competitive compensation and benefits package as well as an entrepreneurial environment and the opportunity for phenomenal professional growth and development. Founded in early 2022 by a team including Dr. Jay Whitacre of Carnegie Mellon University, the company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.