



Job Title: Technical Project Manager and Digitalisation Expert for European IWT Platform

Overview

The Technical Project Manager and Digitalisation Expert is an important member of the European IWT Platform, a private foundation operating under the legal and financial regulations of Belgium.

He/She will work in close collaboration with the General Manager, acting as an in-house technical expert on inland waterborne technology, digitalisation, greening and innovation. The role involves both internal consultation and external representation. Additionally the Technical Project Manager will contribute to discussions at EU-level, and provide specialized advice for initiatives and projects associated with and involving the European IWT Platform. Preference will be given to candidates who have a blend of technical know-how and industry experience, showcasing adaptability and forward-thinking in the rapidly changing fields of waterborne technologies.

Established in 2018, the European IWT Platform serves as the executive arm for both the European Barge Union (EBU) and the European Skippers' Organization (ESO). These entities are the sole representatives of inland barge owners and operators at the EU level. In this role, the IWT Platform supports the EU-level advocacy efforts of both organizations and also actively promotes the smart, sustainable, and competitive development of IWT through targeted initiatives and collaborative projects. Operating through its specialized committees and its Brussels office, the IWT Platform is an active participant in, and contributor to, expert discussions and policy formulation in the domain of safe, secure and smart inland navigation. It collaborates with a diverse range of governance structures at the EU, regional, and national levels, thereby amplifying its contributions and influence.

Position details

Location: Brussels

Reports to: IWT Platform General Manager

Start Date: January 2024

Contract Type: full-time contract

Key Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Technical Advisory and Project Contributions:

- Provide technical input to (EU-funded) projects where the IWT Platform is involved.
- Draft technical reports, documents, and position papers related to IWT policy initiatives and projects.
- Undertake additional tasks as directed by the General Manager.

2. Internal Consultation and Point of View Formulation:

- Conduct internal consultations with relevant IWT Platform technical committees to form a unified organizational standpoint on technical issues of inland navigation and inland waterway transportation.
- Develop and articulate viewpoints in line with the strategic priorities of the Platform and in the interest of inland barge shipowner and inland navigation sector at large.
- Provide written input for internal and external briefings, papers, and reports to disseminate informed points of view.

3. Know-How Transfer and Representation:

- Actively participate in the transfer of technical knowledge within the organization, including hosting or contributing to workshops, seminars, or training sessions.
- Represent the IWT Platform in EU-level discussions related to waterborne technologies, greening and digitalisation and collaborate closely with the General Manager to ensure the organization's perspective is effectively communicated.

4. Stakeholder Engagement and Relationship Management

- Build and maintain relationships with both internal and external stakeholders, including EU bodies and other organizations involved in setting standards for inland navigation.
- Participate in expert groups focusing on digitalisation/automation of inland navigation, and its integration into the logistics chain.
- Provide expert input to various technical discussions in close collaboration with and after consultation with the inland navigation sector representatives.

Required Qualifications and Expertise :

Educational background:

- University degree in Naval Architecture, Maritime or Mechanical engineering, or in a related field with significant practical experience in relation to above tasks.
- Candidates with substantial hands-on experience in fleet greening, retrofitting, re-motorisation, alternative fuels, digitalization/automation and related areas, even without university degree, will be seriously considered.

Professional Experience:

- 3-5 years in functions related to inland waterborne technologies, emphasizing real-world experience in fleet greening, alternative fuels, and digitalization/automation. Proven track record in roles that demonstrate hands-on expertise.
- Demonstrated industry know-how and the ability to keep pace with rapidly evolving technologies and methodologies in the sector.
- Understanding of the latest digitalisation trends, especially in the logistics sector, derived from practical work experiences and industry collaborations.
- Minimum of 3 years in project management, preferably in EU programs like Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Horizon Europe, Interreg, Innovation Fund.

Preference will be given to candidates who have a blend of technical know-how and industry experience, showcasing adaptability and forward-thinking in the rapidly changing fields of waterborne technology.

Certifications:

- Project Management Professional (PMP), PRINCE2, or similar is preferred.
- Additional certifications in inland waterborne technologies are advantageous.

Technical Skills:

- Strong expertise in inland waterway technologies, underscoring practical understanding and application of alternative fuels, greening, and digitalization.
- In-depth knowledge of digitalisation developments, particularly as they pertain to the logistics sector.
- Demonstrated proficiency in project management, showcasing the ability to oversee complex projects from conception to completion.
- Experience in low-emission alternative energy sources or energy efficiency in IWT.
- Understanding of digitalisation policy, implementation strategies and their implications for the IWT sector

Soft Skills:

- Willingness to travel frequently.
- Strong commitment to work in an international and intercultural team.

Language Requirements:

- **English** – Advanced proficiency (C1 level) is a prerequisite, given that English serves as the organization's primary working language.
- **Dutch, German or French** highly desirable.

We offer

- **Position & Duration:** An open-ended, full-time employment contract, commencing in January 2024, governed by Belgian employment law.
- **Work Flexibility:** Flexible working hours combined with the option for partial home-office work.
- **International Exposure:** An opportunity to be part of a diverse international team based in Brussels.
- **Compensation:** A competitive salary package, which will be tailored based on the candidate's experience and expertise, to be discussed with shortlisted candidates during the recruitment process.

Application Process

- Interested candidates are invited to apply by sending both their Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a motivation/cover letter detailing their relevant experience and explaining their interest in the position.
- Please forward your complete application to: jobs@inlandwaterwaytransport.eu.