

Associate Director – Digital infrastructure

Competitive Salary, Car Allowance and Local Government Pension Scheme

Location: Edinburgh with flexibility (12-month Full Time Contract)

Datacentres powered by renewable energy and linked by international fibre connections are key parts of the digital and data economy. The ability to benefit from and make the most of cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT) and other data-driven technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) will, in large part, be influenced by our ability to move data quickly and cost effectively across and between nations.

With the appropriate support, interventions and investment, Scotland can generate [significant new economic growth](#) from data storage, management and innovation.

The [Green datacentres and digital connectivity: vision and action plan for Scotland](#) has been developed to:

- Attract new investors that require high-speed data transit to locate in Scotland and take advantage of enhanced terrestrial and international fibre connectivity.
- Build on its capacity to generate energy from renewable sources.
- Ensure that the full economic and social potential of technologies, such as 5G, Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), are realised across all parts of Scotland.
- Improve Scottish competitiveness and internet resilience providing direct links to other countries and markets.

In supporting Scottish Government to develop and deliver this vision and action plan, we are **seeking an experienced programme manager** to strengthen our existing Digital Infrastructure team.

For more than a decade we've been at the forefront of improving public sector infrastructure across Scotland.

Established by Scottish Government as a centre of infrastructure expertise, we provide additional skills, resource and knowledge to public sector organisations, supporting them to build resilient and sustainable places, drive inclusive economic growth and transition to a net zero society.

Having Scotland's economy front of mind, our aim is:

“to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure investment and use in Scotland by working collaboratively with public bodies and industry, leading to better value for money and ultimately improved public services.”

Our Digital Infrastructure team's main objective is to facilitate opportunities to enhance digital infrastructure investment and its delivery throughout Scotland. An integral part of the programme is to explore how new technologies can be used to transform the way in which businesses, public sector bodies, citizens and visitors interact to enrich their respective digital experience. This requires a high degree of collaboration across industry, academia and local authorities to identify business and 'use-cases' to enable future digital infrastructure initiatives. It is envisaged that this will stimulate further economic growth across Scotland's unique geography and support opportunities to facilitate new routes to enhance the country's data storage capability and international connectivity.

Our Digital Infrastructure team also works across other areas of the business to ensure digital infrastructure is considered as an integral part of all our activities, including on the Green Growth Accelerator programme, the Learning Estate Investment Programme and the hub programme.

The successful candidate is likely to have a general telecoms background with experience of setting up and implementing complex multiple stakeholder programmes which straddle the public and private sectors. Knowledge of the subsea and datacentre market, and the wider agenda, will also be helpful but not essential. The candidate should be accustomed to participating in, and representing views, in multi-party discussions and have experience working with public sector organisations. The successful individual will also have experience of working closely as part of a multi-disciplinary team to deliver successful programmes and projects.

Reporting to the Programme Director – Digital Infrastructure, principal responsibilities for the post will include, but are not limited to:

- Setting up the Green Datacentres & Terrestrial International Connectivity programme of work to deliver the Action Plan agreed with Scottish Ministers and partners.
- Engaging closely with the Scottish Government, wider public sector colleagues, OFCOM and a wide variety of private sector representatives across the datacentre market, telecommunications and energy.
- Developing and implementing the Green Datacentres & Terrestrial International Connectivity programme's governance framework.
- Developing the appropriate monitoring tools and reporting framework to ensure successful delivery of the programme, including risks, issues, assumptions, dependencies, opportunities, and priorities.
- Day-to-day management of the Green Datacentres & Terrestrial International Connectivity programme including working across each workstream to develop the delivery roadmap.
- Working with programme partners to confirm the plans, objectives, timelines, deliverables, dependencies, risks, issues, priorities, assumptions, opportunities, and resource requirements of each workstream.

The suitable candidate will therefore have principal responsibility for developing and maintaining a strong working relationship with all stakeholders involved in the development and delivery of the Green Datacentres & Terrestrial International Connectivity programme, maximising opportunities as they arise and managing issues as they occur.

The position is based at our office in Edinburgh. Everyone at SFT works flexibly with an expectation that there will be a need to be in the office for meetings as required, but not full time. There will be some additional travel required to attend external meetings, training and conferences.

We are committed to diversity, inclusion and creating a working environment which provides equality of opportunity for all. As part of our ongoing commitment, we will ensure a gender balanced recruitment and interview panel to oversee this appointment.

Eden Scott is retained and working exclusively with SFT. Please submit your CV online to peter.dunn@edenscott.com or for a confidential discussion to hear more about the opportunity, then please contact Pete Dunn, Associate Director on 07795 553 835.

The closing date for completed applications is Friday 16 April 2021.