

Non-Executive Directors, IfM Engage Ltd

About IfM Engage

IfM Engage Ltd is a limited company wholly owned by the University of Cambridge. Our mission is to manufacture a better world by helping individuals and organisations enhance their capabilities and contribute towards the future of manufacturing.

IfM Engage earns its revenue by partnering with organisations across industry, government and academia to support them in solving complex challenges, using approaches and knowledge developed at the Institute for Manufacturing (IfM), a part of the University of Cambridge's Department of Engineering. We donate our operating surplus to the University of Cambridge to support future research.

IfM Engage collaborates and is a trusted partner with multinational corporations worldwide, hundreds of small and medium-sized enterprises, and early-stage ventures. We also work with national and regional governments to support them in creating suitable conditions for successfully commercialising science and technology. Our operation brings together our ~40 employees, academics from the Department and wider University and a team of external Associates united around the IfM vision of 'Manufacturing a Better World'

In recognition of its strong and positive work culture, IfM Engage was awarded the Investors in People (IIP) accreditation in 2024.

The roles

Our team of Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) play a vital role in ensuring that IfM Engage fulfils its obligations to the University. They provide advice, support, and challenge to the Executive Team across various areas, including strategy, business practice, corporate governance, financial management, and business risk. Additionally, they serve as an independent channel for reporting and dealing with exceptional issues appropriately.

We are seeking two Non-Executive Directors to provide a commercial manufacturing perspective, strengthen our Board and act as ambassadors for the Company and the wider IfM.

What we are looking for

IfM Engage is committed to equal opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of society.

We are looking for two individuals with demonstrable experience of:

- Consultancy and/or a manufacturing organisation
- Leadership at Board level
- Working in international markets
- Working in/with large and small businesses
- Public, private and academic sectors

We are looking for the following traits:

- A passion for the manufacturing sector
- Willingness to constructively challenge the Executive
- Good listening skills and an understanding of how to enhance discussions
- A collaborative and supportive approach

One of the roles sits on the Finance & Audit Committee, and will also require financial and/or audit experience.

The commitment

The positions are unpaid, but all reasonable expenses incurred will be reimbursed.

The Board convenes four times a year, including an annual planning workshop and dinner held during the March meeting. One of the selected candidates will be required to join the Finance and Audit committee, which meets twice annually. The other candidate may be asked to participate in other Board activities.

What difference will you make?

Our mission is to manufacture a better world, helping the people and organisations we work with to develop their capabilities and build the future of manufacturing.

In your Non-Executive Director role, you will complement the executive team, bringing skills that benefit the whole board and helping us ensure we can meet our objectives. These roles offer an exciting opportunity to be part of a unique, growing organisation dedicated to making a positive impact.

Strategic context

IfM Engage has a wide-ranging portfolio of consultancy, membership, executive education, communications, and research dissemination activities.

Examples of recent activities carried out by IfM Engage include:

- Working with global companies on issues of key importance, such as industrial sustainability, business strategy and technology management, to help drive productivity and reduce environmental harm.
- Maintaining our reputation as a trusted delivery partner for the UK government. For example, the Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) commissioned the Company to explore how a new national initiative could be modelled to generate the greatest impact on the semiconductor industry.
- Co-founding the Women in Manufacturing initiative to promote inclusivity within the manufacturing sector.
- Partnering with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to support hundreds of high-potential start-ups in developing nations.

- Delivering the Shoestring Digital Manufacturing programme –a step-by-step approach to digitalisation using off-the-shelf technology to create low-cost, low-risk digital solutions.
- Supporting UK Government Agencies in developing their understanding of different aspects of the sustainability challenge and the impact new and developing technologies may have upon them
- Collaborating with innovation and industrial development agencies such as the World Economic Forum and the United Nations on issues of decarbonisation and industrial strategies.
- Utilising our events expertise to ensure company visibility at prominent national and international events such as the UK Manufacturing Forum, Manufacturing and Engineering Week, and the World Economic Forum in Davos.
- Leveraging our communications expertise to translate cutting-edge research for industrial and mainstream audiences through film and animation.
- Participating in a programme supported by the Made Smarter Innovation initiative to offer insights into current perceptions of manufacturing, the factors influencing these views, and how these perceptions have changed over the past decade.

How to apply

Please send a CV and covering letter to ifm-engage@eng.cam.ac.uk If you would like to discuss the role, please contact Kate Willsher, Chief Operations Officer kew54@cam.ac.uk.

We look forward to your application.