



Biosurfactant plant operator

Holiferm invites applications from inspired, innovative and team-oriented individuals for a full-time technical operation role.

Holiferm is facilitating the transition of the \$36 billion surfactant market away from harmful, fossil fuel-based chemicals to biobased alternatives. We produce sophorolipid and other biosurfactants; renewable, biodegradable and mild alternatives to the petrochemical derived surfactants used in household cleaning, laundry and personal care products.

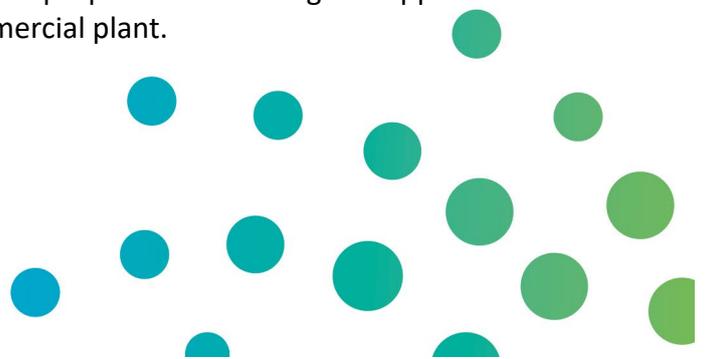
By acquiring a wide range of funding and investments, we have built a fully equipped lab, pilot-plant and more recently, started the build of a >1.1ktpa commercial demonstration plant. Holiferm has expanded its focus beyond sophorolipids and develops processes to produce additional biosurfactants in collaboration with external market facing partners. This role will be key in ensuring product is produced efficiently from the production plant and reaches the market.

We offer a competitive and flexible pay package and benefits such as flexible working to attract the best candidates to join our team initially based in Daresbury and then in Wallasey once our commercial plant is operational. We understand people have different circumstances and want to ensure that the Holiferm family presents a supportive, inclusive and team-focused environment.

We are looking for people who believe in making a positive difference as we believe in change and want to make a meaningful impact towards a more sustainable chemistry sector. We believe collaboration between companies, disciplines and individuals is the best way to develop the biosurfactant industry and our company. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to broaden their skillset by working with field leaders, within a dynamic and friendly working environment.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will initially be responsible for running fermentations in the pilot plant (450 litres) and performing downstream processing, in Daresbury for 8-10 months training then moving to our Wallasey facility for full scale production. The role will involve working with the process development, production teams, QC and supply chain manager for raw material supply to ensure that the whole process provides products with suitable properties for a range of applications and industries, first from the pilot and then from the commercial plant.



Candidate requirements

We are seeking highly motivated innovators who want to challenge themselves and others and fit well with our company philosophy, and first and foremost, get things done. The individual should have:

Essential:

- Enthusiasm and ability to think creatively and develop new technology
- Positive team working attitude
- Willing to work in a fast-paced and quickly changing environment
- Collaborative and constructive attitude
- Experience of running daily plant operations such as preparing chemical solutions, using standard laboratory equipment, using bench-top fermentation reactors and aseptic techniques
- Familiar with operation of pilot/commercial fermentation and downstream separation processes
- Able to provide feedback and communicate across the different teams
- A strong combination of time management and organisational skills
- Experience of organising daily plant operations
- Strong practical skills, able to solve problems quickly and effectively
- Significant experience of working with microorganisms, aseptic technique and inoculum preparation
- Proactive in ensuring work is completed accurately and efficiently

Preferred:

- Experience in fermentation process development (increasing titer/productivity), preferably with expertise of biosurfactants. This includes a strong skillset of processing and interpreting fermentation data
- Experience with analytical techniques for monitoring fermentations
- Strong troubleshooting skills in the context of fermentation and downstream processing
- Experience with different modes of operation; batch, fed batch, continuous
- Fork lift licence
- Experience in calibrating and maintaining fermentation and analytical equipment, for example pumps and pH probes
- Knowledge and experience of implementing process control systems
- Previous experience implementing internal and external QC processes
- UK driving licence
- Mathematical skills and knowledge of calculations useful in the design, operation and scale up of fermentations and downstream processes, with the ability to be creative in finding new solutions to characterise processes

To apply or for more information, please send your CV and a covering letter to andrew.hardwick@holiferm.com.

