FUTURELAB DIRECTOR AND WOODSIDE CHAIR

DEPARTMENT/UNIT: Woodside FutureLab at Monash

FACULTY/DIVISION: Woodside – Monash Partnership

CLASSIFICATION: Level E

WORK LOCATION: Clayton campus

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Monash is full of thinkers and doers who are looking for their next challenge. So if you’ve forged a rewarding career so far, this role provides the perfect platform to join us. You’ll have access to quality research facilities, infrastructure and teaching spaces to do exciting work, along with opportunities to collaborate internationally. You’ll be part of a university that’s made up of inspirational, challenging thinkers and doers – and continue doing work that makes a lasting impact. Discover more at www.monash.edu.

Woodside – Monash Partnership

As Australia’s most progressive oil and gas company, Woodside Energy has been working side-by-side with Monash University since 2015 to apply breakthrough thinking, best-in-class expertise, and novel solutions to shape the future of the resources and energy sector.

Opening in early 2020, the Woodside Building for Technology and Design, will be a home for teaching, design, and collaboration, including a dedicated new design school to host global sprints that underpins Woodside and Monash’s technology development aims.

Building on the success of the Woodside FutureLab at Monash University, Woodside Energy and Monash University joined forces in 2019 to drive Australia’s next-generation leadership of sustainable energy technologies and carbon solutions. A joint investment of more than $40 million over the next seven years.

Launched in 2016, the Woodside FutureLab at Monash is a globally-connected innovation hub transforming the Australian oil & gas industry. Through scientific, engineering and data science research and expertise, the FutureLab and its researchers are at the forefront of new materials, new manufacturing methods and artificial intelligence – three of the most important innovation drivers. With many projects reaching new readiness levels, the FutureLab is accelerating the development of new technologies into real-life engineering and design solutions for Woodside.

As a platform to enable innovation, ranging from blue sky to applied research, in a dynamic, collaborative environment, projects are initiated rapidly through a design-led approach that delivers impact to the sector and beyond. As a hub where new research themes will grow and flourish, the FutureLab also works across activities and programs of the Woodside Monash Energy Partnership.
POSITION PURPOSE

A Level E academic is expected to exercise a special responsibility in providing leadership and in fostering excellence in research, teaching, professional activities and policy development in the academic discipline within the department or other comparable organisational unit, within the university and within the community, both scholarly and general.

The FutureLab Director and Woodside Chair (“the Chair”) is responsible for the provision of dedicated academic leadership that attracts world-class talent to the FutureLab in order to grow the Research and Development (R&D) agenda with a high level of recognition and national significance. In addition, the Chair will lead industry research projects and engagement activities whilst also ensuring the performance and operation of the FutureLab is consistent with its objectives.

Key to the success of this position is the ability to drive a strong culture of collaboration and rapid innovation in a flexible and dynamic work environment. Importantly, the Chair will develop, maintain and broaden high-level strategic relationships, partnerships and networks particularly with Woodside and the Energy Partnership Director.

Reporting Line: The position will directly report into the Dean of the relevant faculty that aligns with their area of expertise, and will be accountable to the Woodside – Monash Executive Advisory Group in achieving the planned outcomes and aims of the partnership

Supervisory responsibilities: This position provides direct supervision to the Research and Innovation Manager

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Lead the continuation and growth of the FutureLab R&D agenda, and positioning the Woodside – Monash FutureLab to take a lead role in national and international research agenda
2. Work with Woodside stakeholders, and develop strong collaborative relationships with Woodside counterparts, subject matter experts and industry problem owners through frequent and active collaboration, such as sprints, updates, meetings and workshops
3. Secure time and space for free and flexible innovation to develop ideas and transfer technology for external impact
4. Foster and enhance a shared university-wide vision for the future directions, goals and priorities of the FutureLab, which is aligned to the broader mission and goals of Woodside and Monash
5. In collaboration with the Energy Partnership Director, build the Centre brand and reputation, and publicise achievements to a range of stakeholders including Woodside, Monash employees, state and federal government, funding agencies, the general community, industry, philanthropists
6. At a strategic level, lead and drive the performance of the FutureLab against the goals and performance indicators set out in the project and strategic plans, enabling the continued development of FutureLab into a hub from which new research themes will grow and flourish, including those in the area of new energy transitions
7. Meet the objectives of Woodside and Monash partnership as determined by the Steering Committee
8. Actively engage in a specialist research area in line with the Faculties’ research strategies, by maintaining a substantial active publications record (high-quality refereed journals) and supervising and mentoring early career researchers and research students
9. Foster research excellence through leadership of external funding grants/applications from industry, governments, national and international funding agencies
10. Develop, maintain and/or broaden high-level strategic relationships, partnerships and/or networks with Australian and international academic institutions, industry and government agencies
KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Education/Qualifications

1. The appointee will have:
   - A doctoral qualification or equivalent accreditation and standing and recognised as a leading authority in the relevant discipline

Knowledge and Skills

2. Standing and recognition as an innovation leader who achieves results
3. Evidence of outstanding scholarly activity of an international standard in either structural materials, 3D printing, materials durability, materials informatics, data and optimization, including significant publications in the highest impact venues, a consistent record of high level research engagement and productivity and a demonstrated continuing commitment to one or more programs of research
4. Demonstrated track record for outstanding leadership, innovation and collaboration within or for industry
5. Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills including the ability to liaise well with other academics and key stakeholders in order to represent and advocate for the Centre
6. Demonstrated ability to attract external funding in the form of both national competitive grants and other research income and in building links with industry, government, funding and professional bodies
7. Demonstrated ability to establish and lead a strong collaborative and interdisciplinary research culture
8. Demonstrated experience in various facets of academic management including the necessary leadership, strategic planning, and decision-making skills needed to manage a Centre

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- Travel to other campuses of the University may be required
- There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time
- There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted

GOVERNANCE

Monash University expects staff to appropriately balance risk and reward in a manner that is sustainable to its long-term future, contribute to a culture of honesty and integrity, and provide an environment that is safe, secure and inclusive. Ensure you are aware of and adhere to University policies relevant to the duties undertaken and the values of the University. This is a standard which the University sees as the benchmark for all of its activities in Australia and internationally.