Program lead for the Internet of Production Alliance – mAkE project

Based in Copenhagen, Danmark.
Expected start date: September 2022. Flexible.
Possibility of full-time or part-time

Context

The program lead will coordinate the Internet of Production Alliance’s work within the mAkE project. mAkE - the African - European Maker Innovation Ecosystem – is a consortium-led initiative including networks of makerspaces, research institutions, and innovation organisations across both continents. This means that this projects feed into and receive inputs from a network of 500+ makerspaces and innovation hubs. It is an extraordinary opportunity, funded by the European Commission Horizon 2020 program, led by a transdisciplinary team from 9 European and African organisations.

The mAkE vision: mAkE is a transdisciplinary approach to connect European and African Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH), focusing on DIH makerspaces, to maximise their potential as spaces for digital innovation, skill building, job creation and contact points for global collaboration networks. By 2025 we have the ambition that over 70% of DIH makerspaces across Africa and Europe are networked amongst each other and are linked in a collaborative and economically fruitful way with SMEs, corporations, investors, local governments, and other ecosystem actors.

About the IoP

What and who is the Internet of Production Alliance?
The Internet of Production (IoP) Alliance (IoPA) brings together people from around the world to build open infrastructures enabling anyone, everywhere to participate in production.

We believe that the future of production lies in decentralized manufacturing based on shared knowledge, allowing us to deliver products faster, leveraging locally sourced materials and with less ecological impact.

We are global Alliance of people and organizations building the knowledge and tools to enable this future.

How does the IoPA work?
The process for IoP standards, tools and initiatives to come into being is via thematic communities. We form communities around components of the Internet of Production that need to be explored. We are currently exploring 5 such components: documentations & designs, machines & tools, people & skills, materials & components, business models & contracts. These communities work towards the creation of, or adoption of existing, infrastructure in these areas. To do so, they are supported by a community lead, a technical author and the IoP team (staff/consultants).

This is a proof of concept

Within the mAkE project, the objective of the IoPA is to build a Proof of Concept (POC) of an Internet of Production for makerspaces. The focus for this POC is on four components of an Internet of Production, as applicable to makerspaces. Each of these components is built on the work done by IoPA thematic communities and IoPA staff / consultants. The program lead’s role will be to weave these components together and support the progress of each community towards achieving their deliverables. Below is an overview of the 4 components and the community & staff that will be a part of building it:

Component 1: - Business and revenue models for local manufacturing – led by a consultant, supported by the IoPA communications staff for dissemination of the outputs.
Component 2: Distributed contracting systems – led by a thematic IoPA community, supported by a community lead, tooling to be built by a software developer

Component 3: A Skills passport reflecting makers’ skills across the network of makerspaces – led by a thematic IoPA community, supported by a research & community lead and technical author

Component 4: Locations of machines and tools – supported by the IoPA Open Know-Where community and the IOPA technical team

The role is part of a small team of 6 people; and reports directly to the IoPA coordinator and IoPA council chair.

**Responsibilities and deliverables:**

Overall, the program lead’s role will be to:

- Weave the components of the project together and support the progress of the various thematic IoPA communities towards achieving their deliverables.

- Lead the project management of the mAkE project.

The project budget is almost entirely human resources. It is likely that no manufacturing will take place until year 3, for which further funds will need to be raised.

The program lead will carry out a wide range of tasks/deliverables, including the following and any other relevant task for the delivery of the project:

- **Maps of machines**
  - Reach out to makerspaces to fill out surveys to map their machines
  - Work with the IoPA technical staff who create guides and tooling for mapping

- **Skills passport:**
  - Support the researcher / standard development technical author consultant
  - Use the standard to develop and fill out a maker passport prototype
  - Persuade makerspaces to recognise each other’s passports in Africa and in EU

- **Contracting:**
  - Mobilise people for trial run of (dummy and real payments) of contracting system across Africa/EU
  - Work with the software developer on the digital contracting system

- **Project management:**
  - Co-ordinate with others in the consortium
  - Represent this work publicly
  - Take part in fundraising/grant writing
  - Take part in consortium meetings
  - Take part in M&E and communications.
  - Lead the project management,
  - Maintain excellent financial and project reporting to be compliant with EC projects
  - Conduct recruitments: software developers, technical authors
Person specification:
We are committed to building a diverse team and strongly encourage application from all backgrounds and genders.

Skills and Experience:

Expected:

- You have excellent written and spoken English. Other languages such as French or Swahili are a plus.
- You have experience of working across Europe and/or Africa (even if remotely, but travel in these continents is preferred)
- **Society and technology.** You understand the social and technological context for the mAkE project. This includes the ability to understand makerspaces, software tools, maker skills, contracting for local production. It would be helpful if you are aware of manufacturing processes
- **Communication skills.** You can mediate between people, communicating with stakeholders at all levels. You know how to manage stakeholder expectations and facilitate complex discussions under constrained timescales. You can speak on behalf of or represent the community to large audiences inside and outside of the Alliance. You are persuasive and have proven that you are able to find what motivates people to adopt a tool/idea/process.

Nice to have:

- You have some ability to code or interface with technical staff and software development teams
- You have experience with GIS / mapping
- You have had a leadership position in makerspaces, makerspace hubs or maker networks
- You have a network in or across Europe and Africa within the makerspace movement
- You are willing to travel
- Experience of working within European Commission, particularly Horizon 2020 projects, and in consortia projects

Other skills

- You are a problem solver
- You enjoy working with people from all over the world, and are highly collaborative with experience in promoting consensus
- **You are diligent with particularly strong attention to detail**
- You have a positive attitude with the ability to encourage others
- You are a motivated self-starter, with experience working with remote teams.

Application Process

- We are reviewing applications on a rolling basis. Should you be interested in this position, we recommend that you send your application without delay.
- Applications should include:
  - A cover letter discussing how you fulfil the profile criteria and your relevant skills/experience.
  - A CV/resume including 2 references.
- Please send your application to: info@internetofproduction.org

Contracting

This role would ideally be a full-time position. We are also interested in establishing a four-day workweek. We also welcome applications from people available for part-time work, with a minimum of 50%FTE (2-3 days per week).

The salary range, depending on experience and % of work-time, is 40-46.000€ per year.
The project lasts until January 2025. We expect to identify new opportunities for the program lead role to continue beyond this date.