

## Candidate Information

**Position:** Head of Smart Design  
**School/Department:** BRCD AMIC  
**Reference:** 25/112863  
**Closing Date:** Monday 29 September 2025  
**Salary:** £64,570 - £74,823 per annum  
**Anticipated Interview Date:** Friday 17 October 2025

### JOB PURPOSE:

AMIC - a £100M investment through the Belfast Region City Deal - is a collaborative, innovative powerhouse of advanced manufacturing set to elevate our region globally.

We are supporting economic growth and prosperity for Northern Ireland by creating high quality jobs and increasing inward investment through high value manufacturing innovation clusters.

We are driving industrial transformation, paving the way for future technologies and competing globally with a more sustainable focus.

Our launch team of over 40 staff has core capabilities in digitalising manufacturing, smart design, polymers & composites and nanotech & photonics. We're excited to be expanding the team throughout 2025 and 2026.

We are seeking an experienced, dynamic leader with strong expertise and experience in Engineering Design R&D, to lead implementation of technology strategy and business development for the AMIC Smart Design Group and oversee operational & financial delivery.

As a member of the AMIC senior management team, you will work with the executive leadership to develop and implement our Smart Design technology roadmap. You will be responsible for leading a team to hit financial and programme delivery targets for the group, developing and managing multiple-work streams of activity, managing significant project resources and mitigating major risks and issues. You will establish a UK wide and global reputation for the group, establishing key research and industrial partnerships and securing funds to advance the technology strategy and deliver impact for the industrial sector in NI and beyond.

The AMIC Smart Design group has a broad scope focussed on the development and deployment of innovative design processes and digital design technologies to drive quality, productivity and sustainability. The group is organised into a number of teams working on a matrix structure consisting of Design Services, Design Methods and Data Integration. The aim is work across the design process from concept to realisation with strong links to manufacturing feasibility and production readiness. The group also provides design solutions to the other three AMIC groups; digital factory, nanotechnology and photonics and sustainable polymers and composites.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Technology Strategy:
  - Work with AMIC leadership to shape technology strategy, where you will engage stakeholders, initiate, develop, implement and lead a comprehensive technology strategy aligned with the centre's overall business goals ensuring major risk mitigation is considered at all stages.
  - Lead the identification, selection, implementation, and integration of key technologies in Smart Design to ensure operational efficiency and agility.
  - Oversee the research and development (R&D) function in Smart Design, driving innovation whilst exploring emerging technologies that align to current and/or future centre objectives.
  - Manage the Smart Design technology budget and resources effectively to maximise performance.
  - Foster a culture of continuous improvement, collaboration and technological excellence within the Smart Design group.

2. Business Development:
  - Develop and lead complex multi-stakeholder engagement strategies both internally and externally, building strong internal and external commitment to planned business development projects.
  - Identify and evaluate new business opportunities particularly focussed on Smart Design, aligned with AMIC's technology roadmap and lead implementation of the strategy as it relates to Smart Design.
  - Drive strategies that result in market expansion and revenue growth for Smart Design.
  - Represent AMIC and Smart Design Group at industry events and conferences, building insight, long-term relationships, brand awareness and thought leadership.
3. Operational & Financial Delivery:
  - Lead the day to day coordination of all operational aspects of the research group.
  - Ensure delivery of financial and growth targets for the group
  - Ensure delivery of quality project outputs on time and on budget
  - Work with executive leadership to develop and evolve AMIC operational processes, monitoring and reporting, with responsibility for implementation in the Smart Design Group.
4. Leadership and Communication:
  - Build and lead a high-performing team of Smart Design analysts, scientists and engineering professionals.
  - Effectively communicate the technology vision and strategy to all stakeholders, both internal and external, with expertise in Smart Design.
  - As part of AMIC senior management, deliver Centre success and alignment through close collaboration across all capability groups and functional areas
  - Foster a culture of openness, transparency, and trust within the organisation.

#### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

1. Honours degree, equivalent or higher qualification in Manufacturing, Engineering, or a related field or substantial relevant working experience in a similar role.
2. Significant evidence of:
  - Leading R&D teams in Engineering Design and advanced analytical methods that has delivered demonstrable industry impact.
  - Developing successful industry and academic stakeholder relationships.
  - Delivering high quality, on time, and within budget project outcomes for a range of complex and innovative projects.
3. Successfully applying business development principles and practices.
4. Ability to communicate complex information effectively to a range of stakeholders.
5. Ability to negotiate and influence at all levels.
6. Risk identification and management.
7. Ability to communicate complex information effectively with a range of stakeholders.
8. Ability to work independently with a high level of self motivation whilst also working collaboratively with many stakeholders within defined deadlines.

#### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Hold a postgraduate qualification in a relevant field.
2. Relevant professional qualification and Institution Membership.
3. Significant evidence of technical excellence and understanding of innovation in both Engineering Design and analytical methods in industrial and academic environments.
4. Understanding of stages of the Design Process including review gates or equivalent.
5. Strong track record in securing or contributing successfully to multi-million (+£1m) R&D funding applications from local, national and international bodies.
6. Demonstrable experience of research delivery and exploitation in one or more of the following areas:
  - Innovative Design Methods.
  - Design software customisation.
  - Design Optimisation.
  - Design for Manufacture.
  - Certification & Validation of products.
7. Experience of successful collaboration and working with international OEMs and SMEs.