

Candidate Information

Position: Head of Ecosystems and Cluster Development
School/Department: AMIC
Reference: 26/113473
Closing Date: Monday 20 July 2026
Salary: £64,570 - £74,823 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 27 July 2026

JOB PURPOSE:

We are seeking an experienced, dynamic leader with strong expertise and experience in establishing clusters in the manufacturing sector and working across supply chains to maximise the collective impact of innovation and productivity to grow business opportunities and create economic wealth. In this role, you will be a horizon-scanner, market-shaper and thought leader, ambitious for positioning AMIC as a pioneer amongst manufacturing RTOs in enabling competitive clusters and supply chains, and supporting individual businesses to scale.

The objectives for the role are to;

- Drive competitiveness and growth across clusters and supply chains collectively.
- Establish NI as a globally attractive location for business and supply chain growth, partnering with indigenous scale up businesses and inward investors.
- Enhance supply chain resilience in critical or evolving markets.
- Support decarbonisation and sustainability of NI clusters.
- Develop a symbiotic cluster of NI manufacturing tech developers and users that grows the competitiveness of both and puts NI on the global map as a place to develop and access manufacturing tech and to establish state of the art facilities.
- Develop 'one-to-many' vehicles to create significant impact for SMEs with lower constraints on capacity.
- AMIC to actively connect OEMs and potential FDI with NI supply chain.
- Identify gaps in NI supply base that would benefit from targeted FDI.
- Position NI supply base to access new growth markets requiring adjacent capability.

As a member of the AMIC senior management team, you will report to the CIO and work with the executive leadership and Heads of Group to develop and implement our Supply Chain and Cluster strategy, connected into our business development (BD). You will develop novel approaches to driving cluster and supply chain competitiveness, building on international best practice. Working in partnership within and beyond AMIC, your work will establish and secure funding for interventions that will drive cluster and supply chain growth and investment.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. AMIC Strategy:
 - a. Work with AMIC leadership and heads of groups to shape a manufacturing ecosystem and supply chain strategy, where you will lead engagement with internal and external stakeholders across industry, government and academia.
 - b. Develop and implement novel approaches to Cluster and supply chain enablement, benchmarking against global best practice.
 - c. Develop global value propositions for innovation districts around AMIC's locations in Global Point and Queen's Island.
 - d. Foster a culture of continuous improvement, collaboration and technological excellence across AMIC and in the wider manufacturing ecosystem.

2. Business Development:
 - a. To develop strategically important relationships with key stakeholders from the business and government communities regionally, nationally and internationally and shape a manufacturing cluster & supply chain development strategy.
 - b. Identify and secure collaborative R&D funding opportunities to facilitate delivery of the cluster and supply chain development strategy.
 - c. Develop and lead complex multi-stakeholder engagement strategies both internally and externally, building strong internal and external commitment to planned cluster and supply chain development projects.
 - d. Identify AMIC propositions to support cluster and ecosystem growth and attract investors.
 - e. Drive strategies that result in market expansion and revenue growth for AMIC.
 - f. Represent AMIC at industry events and conferences, building insight, long-term relationships, brand awareness and thought leadership.
3. Operational & Financial Delivery:
 - a. Lead the day to day coordination of all operational aspects of Ecosystem, Cluster and Supply chain development.
 - b. Ensure financial viability of AMIC supply chain and cluster activities.
 - c. Work with executive leadership to develop and evolve AMIC operational processes to enable novel approaches to supporting cluster and supply chain growth in manufacturing including creation of testbeds and collaborative programmes.
4. Leadership and Communication:
 - a. Build and lead high-performing cross functional teams to deliver supply chain and cluster activities.
 - b. Effectively communicate the AMIC vision and strategy to all stakeholders, both internal and external.
 - c. As part of AMIC senior management, deliver Centre success and alignment through close collaboration across all capability groups and functional areas.
 - d. Foster a culture of openness, transparency, and trust within the organisation.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Honours degree, equivalent or higher qualification in Manufacturing, Engineering, ICT, Physics, Business or a related field OR substantial relevant working in a similar role.
2. Significant evidence of leadership in developing supply chains, clusters and manufacturing ecosystems.
3. Significant experience of securing R&D grant funding from a range of sources including NI, UK and EU funding sources.
4. Strong track record in securing or contributing successfully to multi-million (+£1m) R&D funding applications from local, national and international bodies.
5. Evidence of successful financial and operational delivery of collaborative R&D programmes.
6. Evidence of building stakeholder networks and securing collaborative innovation funding.
7. Robust and resilient, with strong presence and the ability to confidently deliver complex messages to a diverse and demanding audience and the ability to negotiate and influence at all levels.
8. An analytical mindset with the ability to manage and mitigate risk, with a positive creative instinct to develop solutions to support the objectives of the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre.
9. Excellent communication skills – ability to communicate effectively with colleagues across the institution as well as with outside agencies and a strong commitment to collaboration and collegiality.
10. Demonstrable ability to build networks with and to influence funding bodies, major corporate partners and key stakeholders.
11. Demonstrable commitment to the mission and values of Queen's University Belfast, AMIC and the objectives of the Belfast Region City Deal
12. Passionate about innovation and driving business growth through technology.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Hold a postgraduate qualification in a relevant field.
2. Significant evidence of technical excellence and understanding of innovation any of the four AMIC thematic areas; Nanotechnology and Photonics, Smart Design, Digital Factory, Sustainable Polymers & Composites.
3. Experience of working internationally in supply chain or cluster development.
4. Relevant professional qualification and Institution Membership
5. Demonstrable experience of developing business systems for account management, pipeline management and project initiation.
6. Experience of successful collaboration and working with international OEMs and SMEs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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 support and development of a high value manufacturing ecosystem.

We are driving industrial transformation, paving the way for future technologies and competing globally with a more sustainable focus. AMIC supports individual companies and consortia to innovate and drive competitiveness, but core to AMIC's mission is the need to drive collective competitiveness and opportunities across clusters and supply chains to deliver macro economic impact. This includes helping to scale existing businesses and clusters and support targeted FDI to complement and strengthen existing ecosystems and drive supply chains resilience.

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