Candidate Information

Position:	Head of IT & Computing, Momentum One Zero
School/Department:	Momentum 1.0
Reference:	26/113760
Closing Date:	Monday 14 December 2026
Salary:	£66,830 - £77,441 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Friday 8 January 2027
Duration:	Permanent

JOB PURPOSE:

Momentum One Zero (M1.0) is a business-led innovation centre creating commercial value for companies at the convergence of AI, cyber security, and wireless technologies. Operating at the pace of industry, Momentum One Zero drives cross-disciplinary collaboration, entrepreneurship, and impactful innovation with partners through its unique Hubs of Impact model.

Momentum One Zero is accountable, via contractual Senior Responsible Owner (external accountability), for driving national and regional economic competitiveness (e.g. M1.0: 1,539 jobs, £2.6bn additional GDP, 30-year timeframe) and enhancing international reputation (including attracting FDI).

A new state-of-the-art facility, located adjacent to Catalyst, will co-locate 600+ people—including academic experts, engineers, commercial specialists, industry partners, and start-ups—working collaboratively in an IT-enabled, interactive environment.

We are seeking an outstanding Head of IT & Computing to lead the design, delivery, and evolution of Momentum One Zero's cutting-edge compute capability and environment. The successful candidate will grow a team commensurate with the growth of the Momentum One Zero stakeholder community. This highly specialised role carries significant external-facing responsibilities and adaptable problem-solving for external clients, ensuring that our IT and compute infrastructure enables seamless collaboration across academia, industry, and government.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Lead the definition, procurement (£10 million budget), commissioning, and operation of a hybrid cloud, AI, and data platform at Momentum One Zero.
2. Build an IT team to service the growing tech community collaborating with Momentum One Zero, ultimately co-located in Titanic Quarter in our new facility (600+ people).
3. Be responsible for the building and management of an environment that securely supports diverse external partners, including those handling sensitive research, commercial, and government datasets.
4. Collaborate across a dynamic leadership team and with external technology vendors to ensure M1.0's computing capability remains state-of-the-art.
5. Play a pivotal role in supporting companies and partners to optimise technical architectures, accelerate time to market, and build future-ready digital capacity.
6. The role will report to the Executive Director, who works closely with the Academic Director, Engineering Director, and senior academics across Queen's.
7. Lead the definition, design, procurement, commissioning, and installation of a state-of-the-art edge/cloud/data/AI computing platform in line with Momentum One Zero's vision, ensuring consultation with relevant stakeholders internally and externally.
8. Design and deliver a sustainable IT services model for the centre.
9. Lead a growing team of IT Managers to service the growing Momentum One Zero community:
   a. Operating and evolving the computing platform.
   b. Supporting partners in designing scalable architectures and identifying digital skills needs.

10. Develop and manage a secure environment for ingesting, storing, and analysing sensitive research, commercial, and government datasets.
11. Lead the design and administration of Identity and Access Management solutions to ensure seamless and secure user access.
12. Oversee the installation and administration of machine learning platforms (e.g. AWS SageMaker, Microsoft Azure, Nvidia Rapids).
13. Establish and manage team to administer cloud infrastructures (e.g. OpenStack, VMware) and containerised platforms (e.g. Docker, Kubernetes), including:
    a. Virtualisation technology management and optimisation.
    b. Distributed performance monitoring (e.g. Prometheus).
    c. Resource scheduling and allocation in cloud/edge environments.
    d. Automation of deployment via Infrastructure as Code (Azure DevOps, AWS CloudFormation, Terraform).
14. Drive optimisation of accelerator hardware (e.g. GPUs, AI-specific accelerators) for machine learning workloads.
15. Oversee compliance frameworks for data storage, transport, and processing.
16. Lead continuous horizon scanning with technology vendors and users to evolve Momentum One Zero's computing capability.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A degree in a relevant technical discipline or significant professional experience in IT management within a business or research environment, including:
    a. Proven management experience with operational and financial responsibility for IT, data, and technology within complex, high-tech organisations.
    b. Strong project management experience, with evidence of effective resource planning and risk management.
    c. Growing a motivated team to deliver customer-focussed technical outcomes with agility, flexibility, and creativity.
2. Experience leading the definition, design, procurement, commissioning, and installation of a state-of-the-art edge/cloud/data/AI computing platform.
3. Demonstrable ability to horizon scan emerging technology trends and implement relevant innovations.
4. Track record of developing and managing strategic technology partnerships with the private sector, delivering tangible outcomes.
5. Demonstrable knowledge of high-technology industries and R&D.
6. Strong communication, interpersonal, and coalition-building skills, with the ability to influence stakeholders across academia, industry, and government.
7. Experience in mentoring and motivating staff.
8. Willingness to travel domestically and internationally, and to work flexibly to meet role demands.
9. Ability to articulate goals clearly and inspire buy-in to shared objectives.
10. Creative problem-solving skills and resilience in adapting to changing environments and priorities.
11. Strong relationship-building skills across diverse teams and levels.
12. Evidence of negotiation and influencing skills with positive outcomes.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MBA and/or PhD in a relevant discipline.
2. Professional qualifications in cloud computing, data management, or AI.
3. Experience in AI, Cyber Security, or Wireless sectors.
4. Experience working across the UK, Ireland, and Europe.
5. Previous experience in a university, research, or knowledge transfer environment.
6. Experience in R&D and product management, including IP and know-how exploitation.
7. Understanding of relevant national and international technology policy and legislation.
8. Experience working in policy or technology-related environments in government.