

How many lives have you saved today?

FFE Ltd is a specialist fire detector manufacturer and is one of the world's largest manufacturers of optical beam smoke detectors and flame detectors. FFE is part of the Halma plc group, a UK based global FTSE 100 company. Fireray® beam detectors offer a cost-effective method of protecting wide areas against fire. Examples include museums, warehouses, atria, sports stadiums, gyms, theatres etc. Talentum flame detectors detect across a wide spectrum making it an obvious choice for most flame detection applications. FFE aviation extinguishers are present on over half the world's commercial flights.

Furthermore, here at FFE we value our employees giving them the freedom to be creative and innovative. Having a great team spirit and people that are proud to work for a company that saves lives, our teams see the direct impact of their efforts in the daily operations.

Position: Design and Configuration Team Leader

Functional Area: Technical

Location: Cambridge area/Hitchin, UK

Salary: £60-£70k per annum with extensive benefits, bonus and generous Halma Pension plan

Scope of the role

As the Design & Configuration Team Leader at FFE, you'll spearhead the engineering configuration across our diverse range of products. Reporting to the Technical Director, you'll be the primary contact for design and mechanical engineering. You'll oversee product configuration throughout its lifecycle, manage numbering systems and ECN/CR processes, and lead your team in delivering plans efficiently.

FFE has a broad range of products from diverse backgrounds, spanning multiple design methodologies, management systems, part numbering schemes, and documentation formats. You will own an exciting mission to create unification and standardisation, through introduction of pragmatic change and discipline to drive excellence. This will lay solid foundations for FFE to operate more efficiently as a design organisation, which is essential for the business and its product portfolio to grow.

To achieve this, you are expected to be familiar with Product Data Management (PDM), Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), and Enterprise Resource Planning, with strong experience of establishing and running associated systems and processes in a manufacturing context.

Your role includes leading and mentoring team members, managing supplier relationships, and ensuring adherence to industry standards. If you're passionate about leading and managing engineering configuration, join us at FFE for an exciting opportunity!

Duties & Responsibilities	Skills & Experience	Behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as the main initial point of contact across FFE for design configuration and mechanical engineering. • Own product configuration throughout the entire lifecycle: development, launch, sustaining, and phase-out. Ensure accuracy and completeness of BOMs, technical drawings, labels, and associated databases. • Manage the part- and document numbering systems, and the ECN/CR process, ensuring compliance and continuous improvement, resolving issues and impediments to progress. • Lead the planning and refinement of work plans for your team. • Oversee delivery of planned work from your team and help resolve issues therein. • Report into the business on Design and Configuration Team plans and progress & identify opportunities for your team to help others. • Owner of Design and Configuration Team line management, mentoring, coaching, development (objectives, skills matrix, training plan & budget), and recruitment. • Owner of working relationships with third-party suppliers - people acting as a logical extension to your team capacity. • Act as a Design Authority for FFE's mechanical designs. • Ensure working practices, procedures, processes for your domain are well documented and adhered to. • Own the budget, acquisition & management/maintenance of tools & systems related to your team/domain (e.g. SolidWorks, Cognidox, etc.). • Ensure you and your team keep an eye on relevant external trends and opportunities (sister companies, customers, trade shows/associations, technologies, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly experienced with product configuration management systems and processes. • Experienced with CAD systems, such as SolidWorks. • Possess general knowledge of Product Data Management (PDM), Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). • Understanding of up-to-date industry best practices. • Able to line manage, lead and coach other team members to improve engineering practices. • Contribute relevant design knowledge across FFE. • Good technical authoring ability. • Experienced coordinating activities across business functions, including Compliance, Supply Chain, Production Engineering, Product Management, Design Authorities, and other Engineering Teams. • Confident using modern collaboration tools such as JIRA, Confluence and MS Teams. • Proficient in Microsoft Office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by example. • Collaborative, empowering, optimistic, and motivational. • Clear, open, and direct – focus on goals. • Principled, composed, and emotionally restrained. • Flexible and considerate of impact of changes. • Organised and empirical – decisions are data driven.