

AUTOCHAIR

Operations Director - Manufacturing

Location: Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 7JR

Salary: Very competitive salary package, DOE + Excellent Benefits , Car Allowance, Management Bonus Scheme

Contract: Full time, Permanent

Benefits: 26 days annual leave plus statutory holidays, Life Insurance, Private Health Care, Profit Related Pay, 5 % contribution from the business into the company pension scheme, Employee Assistance Programme, A supportive and forward-thinking team environment and Opportunities to contribute to a business that makes a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Are you a visionary, highly motivated and enterprise focused Operations Director ready to drive transformation in a fast-growing, purpose-led manufacturing business?

At Autochair, we design and manufacture life-changing mobility solutions.

As we scale and evolve, we're seeking an experienced and strategic General Manager to lead our Manufacturing, Engineering, HSEQ & BI, and Sales Operations functions.

This role is a rare opportunity to shape our operational model for future growth, embed continuous improvement practices, and empower high-performing teams to deliver quality, efficiency, and innovation.

You'll report directly to Managing Director and play a critical role in re-engineering our operations to meet rising demand, while ensuring safety, compliance, and customer satisfaction remain central to everything we do.

Could this be your next career move?

Your team will include production management, HSEQ & BI, Engineering and Sales Operations!

In addition to this as our Operations Director you will assume responsibility for:

- Providing strategic direction and leadership to the team, fostering a culture of high performance, accountability and collaboration.
- Promoting a strong Health, Safety & Environmental focus along with quality culture.
- Maintaining target profit levels during rapid expansion
- Using data-driven metrics (KPIs) to measure operational effectiveness and guide decision-making.
- Developing lean manufacturing techniques to streamline operations.
- Shaping and focusing the Engineering function
- Managing the manufacturing growth path for our international footprint
- Implementing efficient production workflows, optimizing productivity and reducing waste.
- Owning the management of the post sales process, ensuring efficiencies and collaboration across all teams.
- Identifying cost-saving opportunities and operational efficiencies while maintaining quality and service standards.
- Championing a culture of continuous improvement, encouraging employees to identify, document, and implement initiatives that enhance productivity, quality, and overall performance.
- Having a zero tolerance to defects and errors, and improve quality.

You will be a hands-on leader who combines strategic thinking with operational rigour and will be reporting to the Managing Director.

You're experienced in scaling operations, driving performance and leading people through change in a fast-paced manufacturing or production environment.

In addition to this you should have experience in / as:

- Minimum of 8–10 years of progressive management experience within manufacturing & production environments.
- Strong background in business operations.
- Expertise in lean methodologies (Lean, Six Sigma, CI) and operational transformation.
- Familiarity with ERP/MRP systems (ideally Microsoft Dynamics), supply chain software and inventory management tools.
- Financially astute, with experience in budgeting, cost control, and forecasting.
- International footprint expertise
- Bachelor's degree in business administration, engineering or equivalent experience

Your Leadership Style:

- Inspirational, collaborative, and focused on empowering others.
- Decisive and data-led, with strong critical thinking and change management skills.
- Able to coach and develop high-performing teams while holding people to account.
- Comfortable leading cross-functional initiatives and engaging stakeholders at all levels.