

Plastron Mobile Satellite Processing Facility Assembly Project

Code: 21/46

Company: Plastron UK

Location: Westcott Venture Park

Company Description:

Plastron UK design and build State-of-the-Art satellite processing facilities for use across the spectrum of the Upstream supply chain – from assembly and manufacture through test to pre-launch preparations. This includes facility units which are designed for highly specified hazardous spacecraft handling, including high-pressure check-out work and propellant transfer.

Project Description:

A mobile satellite processing cleanroom will be assembled at Westcott Venture Park in summer 2021. The facility will be used for training as well as for industrial cleanroom activities. We require two undergraduates to support the assembly. This will involve physical work, project management, quality-control and sub-contractor oversight. Successful applicants will gain experience in project management, assembly practices, account management and high-quality training in the assembly and maintenance of cleanrooms.

Applicant Specification:

- Title: Satellite Processing Facility Assembly & Test Apprenticeship
- Context: The Plastron facility has been designed because there is a clear need for these types of facilities in the UK and elsewhere. The motive behind the concept is two-fold – the success of the space industry will be predicated on safe and efficient facilities which are fit-for-purpose and meet the exacting standards set by the industry. Thus, your involvement in learning about the assembly of this cleanroom will provide participants with expert insight which will directly support their future work in Upstream spacecraft activities as well as encourage them to be an ambassador promoting best practice for safe satellite handling.
- The role: Based at the Westcott Venture Park, the facility will be assembled over the summer 2021. As a project Apprentice, you can expect to be involved in a range of activities, including
 - *Managing sub-contractors:* there will be over 10 suppliers across the UK providing parts and sub-systems. Contracts will need monitoring to ensure deliveries are on time and any issues resolved responsively.

- *QA/QC of equipment delivered to site:* when equipment is delivered to site, a quality assessment is required to log the items onto the assembly inventory and track it's use during the assembly
- *Project management of the assembly process:* The project will be managed using basic Agile methods, which participants will be taught in. This will be augmented by the use of common digital communication tools, such as Zoom and Slack as well as specialist platforms including the inventory system and the assembly simulation software.
- *Problem solving on technical & non-technical issues:* This is the first assembly of the facility and there will be issues which will require group consideration to resolve. This will range from participating in a pragmatic quorum to agree on a decision to assessing – in detail – the implications of a decision on subsequent activities and system integrity.
- *Test planning for complete assemblies:* Test schedules will be needed to validate each system once installed as well as to test them during failure mode scenarios. They will have to be written, delivered and reported on.

Minimum Requirements:

1. You do **NOT** need to be studying for a technical degree. If you feel comfortable handling equipment and learning how to use specialist tools and have a good eye for detail, you are cordially invited to apply.
2. **Attention to detail** is vital, we cannot afford to make sloppy mistakes. You will want to ensure you have completed tasks correctly, but equally have the confidence in your actions so you can self-organise and manage your time.
3. **Problem solving** in any form is a useful skill we need; we may ask you to work out why a certain assembly does not fit in the way we intended and you will feel comfortable taking an appropriate time to analyse what has happened and to feel confidence in your analysis and any recommendations you offer.
4. **Communication** is also vital, both to avoid mistakes and as a representative of Plastron UK. You will be talking with technically-minded suppliers so will need to be to articulate clearly your opinions and needs so that suppliers can respond without wasting time getting confused.
5. **Belief** is why you'll be working with us. We want to have Apprentices who understand the value this project will provide to their career. You will also have confidence in your abilities and their limits. We will mentor you to overcome barriers that occur, but you have to be willing to take responsibility.
6. **Team work** We want you to fit into our small, yet highly excitable team at Plastron. We need people who are comfortable with discussing their opinions with senior management without antagonising them by being insensitive!
7. **Socially aware** The principles that underpin Plastron UK is led by, "Safety by Design": we want our environments to protect human life and the payloads they handle. Look up the meaning of Plastron and you will understand us a little more. We also intend to achieve a high-quality, environmentally sound supply chain; we currently estimate our facilities are 85% recyclable. We want you to help us develop our business ethos as a direct consequence of your experiences with us.

Preferred Additional Requirements:

- An ability to have access to working at WVP. We do not have accommodation locally, we may be able to help with car shares.
- Working a five-day week. This may be full time on site, or it may entail a day working offsite each week.
- Tidy & presentable – and well organised – this is an engineering site by definition and accidents do NOT need to happen.
- IT skills – MS Office competency, especially with Excel, is necessary. A professional manner online is required

Further details:

8 weeks minimum fixed term contract to be agreed with successful candidate. Virtual Induction Event to be held on 21 June 2021. Ideally to complete before the start of the next academic year. Salary is £1,500 per calendar month gross.

Closing Date for Applications: 5pm Wednesday 16 June 2021

Applications should be made through the online form on the Satellite Applications Catapult website before the closing date.

<https://sa.catapult.org.uk/work-with-us/space-placements-industry-spin/>

Please note that elements of the form left incomplete will be deemed to render the application ineligible. They will be checked for eligibility and forwarded to the employer. Email applications made to the Satellite Applications Catapult, UK Space Agency, or host organisations will not be processed.