



Chief Operations Officer

The organization:

BioLizard is a growing company providing bioinformatics and software engineer solutions for our customers in biotech, pharma and academia. Typically, a lizard adjusts to its surroundings and that is exactly what we do. At BioLizard we adapt to our customers' data environment! The research field is rapidly becoming more data-driven, where we strive towards offering state-of-the-art bioinformatics, software development and machine learning solutions to help solve our customers' biological questions. Our bioinformatics scientists and software engineers are embedded in the working environment of our customers in a full-time or half-time regime, collaborating on challenging projects in life science.

As COO, you will have the opportunity to build an operational strategy, overseeing the execution of exciting multidisciplinary projects within biotech and biopharma, with a major focus on the software component, for internal use but also towards clients. You will be working on some of the most challenging interfaces as part of an international multidisciplinary team with real career opportunities.

The role:

We are currently looking for an experienced Chief Operations Officer with a strong business mindset and software background to help outline our business and software strategies, together with the business development department. This role is at the forefront of driving the company's business and increasing its revenue by identifying and developing new business opportunities in software development, next to bioinformatics, biostatistics and machine learning, and building and expanding the international presence of the company. You will help to build out BioLizard into the go-to-bioinformatics consulting company. This role reports to the CEO and requires occasional travel, which includes customer visits, participation in conferences and on-site presentation. Next, you will steer a team of up to 20 people. Finally, you will be member of the executive board of BioLizard.

The position requires a location with easy access to Ghent, Belgium (headquarters), where the activity will mostly take place.

Key responsibilities:

- People management and operational management
 - Full responsibility of the operational team, structuring the team of experts, as well as defining team goals
 - Assess internal software needs, but also the client needs; align both

- Prioritize development tasks, set up plans, with requirements, deliverables, and timelines; allocate right resources
- Map resource (Lizards, project management) needs on mid-long term (1-3 y); pinpoint the required skills
- Strategy and business
 - Input on the future direction of bioinformatic software product offerings and addressing the needs of the market
 - Aligning operation needs with client needs, in close collaboration with the CEO
 - Work on the scalability of the company with the CEO and establish a strategy
 - Be involved in partnership discussions, mainly related to software
 - Nurture long-term relationships with stakeholders
 - Make short term and long term plans regarding software strategy
 - Monitor operational efficiency of the team

Skills required:

- Soft skills:
 - Empathic person/personality, with good people skills; able to manage both people and processes
 - Excellent communication skills and able to communicate with people from all levels
 - Driven to achieve outstanding results
 - Hands-on attitude
 - Ability to manage multiple tasks and meet deadlines
- Technical skills:
 - (Bioinformatics) software know-how
 - Knowledge about open-source solutions and ability to identify potential gaps within the open-source solutions
 - Experienced in or at least knowledge about the set-up of SaaS models
- Business skills:
 - Customer oriented
 - Market knowledge, or able to do a market research
 - A keen eye for market opportunities
 - Entrepreneurial spirit, ambition to establish BioLizard as a world leading bioinformatics platform company

Your profile:

- Master's degree in bioinformatics or a related field
- 7+ years' experience in industry, preferably in a management role
- Fluency in English is a must, additional languages would be considered a plus
- Experience in a product or service company, ideally within biotech/pharma
- Affinity with a scale-up atmosphere is welcome

What we offer:

- A challenging and motivating work environment where like-minded people strive towards high quality results in a continuously evolving research domain
- A personal growth trajectory focusing on self-development and gathering knowledge
- The opportunity to have direct impact on the growth and success of BioLizard
- An attractive salary package with additional benefits based on experience

Your first line of involvement will be challenging and critical for the successful expansion of the company.

If you are looking for both an opportunity and an adventure, we warmly welcome you!

Interested?

Send your CV and cover letter to HR@lizard.bio.