Product Manager for Conservation Management System (UK)

Type: Full time, permanent
Location: Brecon Beacons National Park[1]
Salary: £27k - £37k plus overtime

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[1] *We may also be recruiting to a similar position based in the Netherlands. This will be subject to amended terms and requires Dutch language skills. Please indicate on your application if you are interested in this position.*

If you have strong IT and data management skills and a background in conservation, land management, life sciences or similar, then this might be the rare opportunity you have been looking for to combine your interests …

Who are we?

exeGesIS is a well-established and respected software consultancy with an impressive portfolio of information management applications used in the environmental and conservation sectors. In the last few months alone we have been working on dozens of interesting projects for clients including Natural England, the RNLI, the National Trust, Central Government, English Heritage, The Ramblers, many local authorities, Wildlife Trusts and the Church of England. In fact most of the major UK conservation and land management organisations are regular clients and we also have a number of important conservation clients overseas, particularly in N. Europe.

What's the job

One of our applications is the 'Conservation Management System' (CMS*i*), a comprehensive solution for the planning and management of protected areas. CMS*i* benefits from the close involvement of the CMS Consortium – a grouping of conservation organisations from the UK and Netherlands that are closely involved in management and direction. The position we are recruiting for will be part of a small team that manages CMSi. Further information can be found at www.software4conservation.com and www.esdm.co.uk.

So, why might you want to work with us?

* We have great clients doing great work for wildlife, conservation and communities. We enjoy building and supporting tools to help them and they seem to like what we do.

* You like IT and you have an empathy for our type of clients and the important work they do – there are not many companies like ours that allow you to combine these interests.

* CMSi has a long pedigree and the present application has benefited from multi-million Euro investment in recent years. As well as being used by many smaller organisations, it has been adopted as the national system for the management of protected areas by Natural England and by Staatsbosbeheer in the Netherlands. It is also the corporate system used by Natuurmonumenten in the Netherlands and is shortly to be adopted as a national system by another EU state. The system is already used by hundreds of people managing over a thousand important sites and these figures are set to grow – which is why we need more consultants.

* We are based in a National Park - a great location if you value countryside, outdoor activities and avoiding life wasting commutes. And you can also work remotely for at least some of the time.

* Don't be fooled by the cuddly nature of our clients and their work. Typically they require (and we give) a lot for their money and that drives creativity, efficiency and sheer hard work. We see this as a positive.

What's the job?

To be honest it's not that easy to summarise as it is potentially quite broad and will develop and change as the CMS*i* project itself develops and changes. In any event our consultants enjoy a high degree of autonomy and roles tend to evolve around each person's strengths and interests. Nonetheless it is likely in the first instance to include many of the following:

- Installing and maintaining the CMS*i* application on our own and client servers
- Keeping in close contact with the user community and organising / attending user groups and conferences
- Working with our clients to prepare functional specifications
- Working with our development team to help prepare technical specifications
- Testing new releases
- Developing and delivering user training courses
- Providing remote technical support services to users
- Promotional and sales activities
- Helping to determine strategic direction of the product
- Providing a secretariat service to the CMS Consortium
- Maintaining an awareness of policy and good practice in the conservation and land management fields
- Preparing exemplar management plans and training datasets
- Assisting with other company projects on an occasional basis

Who are we looking for?

To be a good CMS*i* consultant you need to:

- Understand the importance of rational, evidence-based management, i.e. you 'get the point' of CMS*i*
- Be smart with an ambition to learn
- Be positive and problem solving
- Be effective - getting things done right, first time and on time (well, most of the time).
- Be self-motivated, organised and disciplined.

More specifically you must have:

A) At least 1 years' experience in the management of conservation /amenity sites or have other experience related to the management of property, habitats or species
B) Excellent IT skills to including at least 3 of the following:

1. Database skills, e.g. querying using SQL, database management, etc. (Experience using SQLServer is advantageous).
2. GIS skills. Advanced use of one or more of ArcGIS, MapInfo and QGIS
3. Report writing experience using MS Access, Crystal Reports or similar
4. Server management experience
5. Website management and html editing capability
6. Configuring web mapping applications such as MapServer and GeoServer
7. Software testing

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C) A highly organised approach to work and project management
D) Confident and effective presentational and client facing skills
E) Graduate qualifications in a relevant discipline
F) Driving licence

What will you get?

- To be part of a successful and growing environmental and IT consultancy and be working with a dynamic product with huge potential
- To provide solutions that make a difference (normally for the better) to the environment and for conservation
- A high degree of autonomy with the ability to shape your own job and if you have some good ideas, to help determine company direction
- Money. £27,000 - £37,000 is pretty much the remuneration range and you can expect to be towards the top if you have great IT skills and a lot of relevant experience. At the lower end you still have to be good (but not as good), and with bags of potential. We will also pay you overtime.
- Flexible working arrangements

Contract and location

This is a full time and permanent position. It is likely that the position will be based at our head office in the Brecon Beacons National Park, Wales, although partial remote working is supported. Occasional visits to client sites will be required.

What next?

We would like to receive applications from suitably qualified candidates that are truly interested in working with us and for this reason we ask that all applications include:

- A detailed CV
- A covering letter that details your technical IT experience. Please identify each application / language along with an assessment of your ability level quantified as: Expert – Advanced – Intermediate – Basic (we'll leave you to decide what each of these mean).
- Any location preferences or constraints

If you would like to discuss the position before applying then you are welcome to contact Jon Young, (01874) 711145, jony@esdm.co.uk

Please email applications to:

Richard Griffiths, exeGesIS SDM Ltd, Great House Barn, New Street, Talgarth, Powys. LD3 0AH.

richardg@esdm.co.uk

The deadline for receipt of applications is 20th February 2017

Thank you