Job Title
Sustaining Engineer

Job Type
Full Time, Salaried, Exempt

Location
Thornton, Colorado

Travel
Occasional travel may be required

Pay
$65,000 - $90,000/year DOE

Benefits
We offer a dynamic, team-oriented work environment with a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, life, STD, LTD and a generous 401(k) match.

Company Overview
Ascent Solar Technologies (OTCMKTS: ASTI) is a developer and manufacturer of state of the art, thin-film flexible photovoltaic products. If this type of organization appeals to you, and you have the required qualifications, we want to hear from you!

Position Summary
This role will start as a functional, hands-on contributor doing technician work to learn our unique systems, equipment and processes, documenting or updating SOP's as needed. Then they will pivot to support the training of technicians on day-to-day functions with the goal of eventually shifting focus more into sustaining engineering. In the Sustaining Engineer Role, this position is responsible for applying engineering principles to provide technical support in the operation and efficiency of thin-film roll-to-roll production tools and equipment.

Schedule
The ideal candidate is able to train on a day-shift (8am-5pm) then move into 2nd (4pm -1am) or 3rd (12am – 9am) shift work.

Responsibilities

- Help ensure successful operation Thin Film CVD tools across multiple shifts.
- Work closely with technicians, manufacturing personnel, and management to ensure proper tool performance and a safe high-throughput process with maximum uptime is achieve.
- Own the engineering processes involved in sustaining engineering of all existing tools and/or equipment.
- Work independently and with a cross-functional team to ensure the most robust, easy to manufacture and high-quality products are maintained.
- Provide technical support in troubleshooting, diagnosis and resolution of any tool issues or improvements.
- Provide production line support to ensure uptime and write and communicate engineering pass-downs to appropriate personnel.
- Validate manufacturing tool processes and write standard operating processes when appropriate.
- Assist in the analysis of technical data and trends related manufacturing tool processes and report information to appropriate engineers or technicians.
- Serve on team(s) to address manufacturing, safety or quality issues.
- Identify areas for improvement of manufacturing tools or processes and make recommendations to appropriate stakeholders.
- Review appropriate experiments or processes for necessary background on specific assignments.
- Collaborate across the manufacturing and engineering organizations and effectively works with teams to achieve desired results.
- Identify safety issues with tools or the work environment and recommend solutions for improvement.
- Support the handling of hazardous waste material in accordance with federal, state and local regulations; individual will be trained (upon hire and annually) for the requirements of safe handling and proper disposal of any material deemed to be hazardous and the proper use of PPE for this activity.
- Support tool metrics, installation, tool decommissioning and safety program improvement in a team environment.
- Perform other duties as dictated by the needs of the business.

Essential Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science degree in a relevant technical field, e.g. Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Materials Science, Physics, etc.
    - Degree may be substituted by 3-5 years of relevant work experience.
- At least 2 years engineering in a manufacturing environment supporting thin film deposition, laser or patterning tool processes and improvement is preferred.
- Willingness to work an alternative or 12-hour shift, potentially including nights and overnights.
- Experience in photovoltaic metrology tools and analytical techniques is desirable.
- Authorization to work in the U.S.; sponsorship will not be available.

Essential Skills

- Understanding of the fundamental concepts, principles and procedures of engineering discipline.
- Knowledge in the application of JMP, DOE, SPC, and root cause problem solving, a plus.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills across all levels in the organization.
- Detail Orientation.
- Exceptional time management and organizational skills to meet targeted deadlines.
- Ability to work well in a team environment while being able to self-manage when working autonomously.
- Self-motivated in learning best practices and applying them in new processes.
- Demonstrated abilities to solve diverse and complex problems through a combination of experimentation, characterization, and analysis.
- Reliability and dependability.

Physical Demands and Work Environment

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Physical Demands
    - While performing the essential functions of this job, the employee is occasionally required to walk, sit; regularly required to use hands and fingers, handle or feel objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms; stoop; climb; talk or hear. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 lbs. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus. Must be able to pass a respirator fit test, as well as be cleared to work around heavy metals and chemicals that are associated with the position.
- Work Environment

- While performing the essential functions of this job, the employee is exposed to fluctuations in air temperature caused by equipment and/or outside weather conditions prevalent at the time. The noise level in the manufacturing work environment is elevated, depending on location.

Ascent Solar is an equal opportunity employer with a solid commitment to diversity and a passion for creating an inclusive and equitable workplace for all employees.