

Tech Tyfu Project Officer Brief

The Tech Tyfu innovation hub is the first major step to embedding vertical farming into the Welsh economy, and takes the form of a new facility at Menai Science Parc (M-Sparc) dedicated to developing and showcasing innovation in vertical farming.

The Tech Tyfu Hwb project seeks to overcome existing barriers to growing fresh produce in north Wales by developing supply chains, building skills, educating and informing the public, the farming community and professionals about vertical farming and the opportunities that it offers.

The project will showcase vertical farming technology at a commercial scale and offer space and resources for new and existing growers to pilot growing methods and test markets for new crops. Working with a variety of academic, industry and education partners, the Hwb will develop the role of IoT and automation in controlled environment agriculture, pioneer new approaches, methods and techniques as well as optimising and beta-testing new vertical farming technology. Our vision is for the Hwb to become an exemplar for how to run a safe, efficient and profitable growing unit to inspire new and existing growers in Wales and beyond.

Tech Tyfu is a group of five projects delivered by Menter Môn that pioneers the role of vertical farming in north Wales, which has previously involved establishing a grower's group and exploring supply chains for vertically farmed produce. This work is ongoing but will now include working with local schools to integrate vertical farming into the new curriculum, scaling up supply chains, designing bespoke vertical farming solutions for local high streets and the innovation hub.

Tech Tyfu Hwb received funding from the Welsh Government's Business, Innovation and Tourism Escalator Scheme (BITES).

The role

We are now seeking to appoint a full-time project officer for a two-year period to implement the Tech Tyfu Hwb project, manage the day-to-day running of the facility and deliver project outcomes. The successful applicant will join the Tech Tyfu delivery team, and will primarily be responsible for implementing the Tech Tyfu Hwb project. This will include the installation and functionality of digital infrastructure and collection and analysis of data relating to the vertical farms. The successful applicant will also take responsibility for, and contribute to, projects and tasks assigned as part of the Hwb and the wider Tech Tyfu project, which will include writing reports, dissemination of project outcomes through publications and public events, supervising the running of the facility on a day-to-day basis, managing equipment and carrying out operational tasks, working independently and with contractors to engagement.

We are looking for a motivated, dedicated and capable team member to deliver this project with us. We are looking for someone who sees value in what we are doing, and will bring a background of skills and experience to help us achieve our aims. We are particularly interested in applicants who are able to write well and have tech skills. Much of the work we anticipate doing will relate to optimising, beta-testing and developing technology in vertical farms, which will include integrating AI/machine learning into vertical farming to help aid decision-making,

automating various key processes and perhaps developing pest and pathogen recognition and control processes based on AI. We are looking for a team member who will offer a nice welcome at the Hwb and make it a pleasant space growers, staff and partners to work together. The ideal candidate should demonstrate experience of leading a team through work, sport, volunteering, or tackling a challenge.

The successful applicant will join the staff of Menter Môn, who is one of the leading employers in the region, offering a welcoming workplace atmosphere and many staff benefits. Through being a member of the Tech Tyfu project team, the successful applicant will also become part of the vibrant Menai Science Park community, which brings together the leading innovators, scientists, entrepreneurs and professionals in the region, many of whom are involved to varying degrees with the Tech Tyfu project.

For more information, please contact luke@mentermon.com

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