

Senior Project Manager

Closing date: 10 December 2025

Email CV to: recruitment@tianaconsulting.co.za

About the job:

The vacancy for a Senior Manager (for a fixed 12-month contract) in the Information and Cyber Security Research Centre, within the Defence and Security cluster. In collaboration with Centre's Project and Contracts Office, the incumbent will be responsible for direction, coordination, implementation, execution, control and completion of projects that will ensure the growth and sustainability of the Centre and client satisfaction. The project manager will be the bridge between stakeholders and cross-functional teams tasked with the execution of projects.

This position is based in Pretoria and will report to the Project and Contracts Manager

Key responsibilities:

- End-to-end management of project delivery of multidisciplinary cybersecurity projects to ensure that assigned projects stay on schedule and on budget.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams across the Information and Cybersecurity Center to deliver on project requirements.
- Lead and facilitate the definition of effective and thorough integrated project plans which will include, but not limited to project scope, objectives, budgets, schedules, and resource plans ensuring adherence to timelines and project governance frameworks.
- Lead pro-active development and implementation risk and change management to ensure that projects are delivered on-budget, on-brief, and on-time (OBOBOT).
- Prepare regular (and ad-hoc) project status reports and keep Research Group Leaders and the Project and Contracts Manager informed of progress and risks/issues.
- Collaborate effectively with Research Group Leaders, Project and Contracts Office, and Technical Team to align resources towards achieving project objectives.
- Manage team and stakeholders (facilitate and negotiate), including communication (e.g. regular internal and external team meetings and progress reporting).
- Contribute to continuous improvement initiatives within the Project and Contracts Office through lessons learned and knowledge sharing.
- Mentorship and coaching of project coordinators for project management capacity building.
- Effective management of overall project finances (including invoicing).
- Comply with all CSIR procedures and regulatory requirements.

Qualifications, skills and experience:

- A Bachelor's degree Computer Science, Electrical/Computer Engineering or related field, with at least 5-8 years' experience as a Project Manager, of which three years should be within the Defence and Security environment and/or Research Development Innovation (RDI) domain.

- A post-graduate qualification or certification in project/technology/engineering management (e.g. PRINCE2/PMP) is mandatory.
- Experience and/or knowledge of software/systems engineering, information security or cybersecurity, will be advantageous.
- A proven track record in managing and delivering projects within highly regulated environments (e.g. public sector).
- Demonstrated experience in managing complex stakeholder dynamics and multidisciplinary projects.
- Sound experience in managing a team of multi-disciplinary professions.
- Demonstrate systematic and structure approach to project management.
- Demonstrate knowledge and experience of the day-to-day operations of a project.
- Strong knowledge of Agile and Lean methodologies.
- Must be self-motivated and able to work independently.
- Analytical thinking for complex problem resolution.
- Adaptability to change, ability to multi-task and to consistently perform under pressure.
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work closely with others across research groups.

SA Citizenship is necessary, as a Security Clearance is required for this position.

What's in it for you?

The CSIR offers:

- Flexible hybrid work arrangement;
- Learning and development opportunities.
- Competitive and market-related remuneration packages.
- Total guaranteed salary packages which encompass contributions to the pension fund, risk insurance and medical scheme.
- We openly acknowledge and reward our employees' contributions and accomplishments through our esteemed CSIR Excellence Awards.