R&D PLATFORM ASSOCIATE SCIENTIST
MonoSol, LLC, a Kuraray Division

**JOB DETAILS**

**Job Location:** Merrillville, IN  
**Position Type:** Full Time  
**Job Shift:** Day

**Company Information**

Founded in 1953, MonoSol, LLC, with corporate headquarters in Merrillville, Indiana, is the world leader in the marketing and manufacture of water-soluble film for the packaging of unit-dose detergents, many sustainable packaging applications, fabrication systems and soluble solutions. MonoSol’s film products and solutions are based primarily on polyvinyl alcohol and polysaccharide resins. Manufacturing sites are located in Indiana in, Portage, LA Porte, and Indianapolis and along with one additional site in Hartlebury, Worcestershire, England. MonoSol employs both solution casting and thermoplastic extrusion manufacturing processes. The main R&D labs are located in Merrillville, Indiana.

In June 2012, MonoSol was acquired by Kuraray Co. Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. Established in 1926, Kuraray is the world leader in polyvinyl alcohol resin technology and was the first to manufacture and market polyvinyl alcohol synthetic fibers. A global specialty chemical company, Kuraray has subsidiaries in 18 countries and regions.

**Position Summary**

This entry-level/early-career position is an opportunity for a creative, independent researcher to contribute to a wide range of innovation programs in research and development at MonoSol. MonoSol is an agile, fast-growing company, and this new position in the R&D Platform group will require a self-motivated, detail-oriented individual. The Platform group is responsible for fundamental research, front-end innovation, and white-space exploration at MonoSol. Therefore, this position will require an adaptable researcher who can learn new subjects quickly.

This hybrid position will consist of roughly equal parts lab work and ideation/project management, both in as an individual achiever and as a part of the Platform team. A successful applicant will be able to competently lead routine laboratory activities and develop new specialized techniques as necessary to deliver on project objectives. Research topics will include plant-based, sustainable replacements for petroleum-based polymers, water-soluble film formulation development, and development of novel polymer processing techniques.
This position is an excellent opportunity for an early-career scientist/engineer to gain skills in a fast-paced company with an opportunity for advancement. This position will include substantial on-the-job training in a variety of laboratory techniques, processing techniques, and data analysis techniques related to practical polymer science and engineering problems. A self-motivated individual who demonstrates themselves capable of learning these skills quickly will be eligible for fast-track promotion along MonoSol R&D technical track, which could include the expansion of responsibilities to management of direct report technician.

RESPONSIBILITIES

▪ Utilize common and advanced laboratory test equipment to perform hands-on mechanical and performance testing.
▪ Utilize advanced data interpretation methods (e.g. Python scripts) to evaluate new materials/processes to meet internal and external customer requirements.
▪ Create concept models and prototypes utilizing small tools and equipment (e.g. 3D printing)
▪ Independently generate testable hypotheses and experimental plans which contribute towards achieving development project goals
▪ Lead, develop, and establish new technology platform capabilities utilizing MonoSol's innovation process
▪ Confer with fellow team members on development projects, test results, and the development of nonstandard tests.
▪ Effectively present your results to groups within the organization with a variety of technical backgrounds (engineers, operations, sales, and marketing, etc.)
▪ Leverage collaborators, internal and external, to develop novel technologies for new products and processes.
▪ In a non-supervisory capacity, provide coaching, and guidance regarding project tasks to other technicians and associates.
▪ Requires a flexible work style and travel as necessary to perform assignments.

QUALIFICATIONS

▪ B.S./M.S. in Chemical Engineering, Material Science, Polymer Science, or Chemistry is required.
▪ 1-5 years of hands-on laboratory experience preferred (undergraduate research experience and/or industry experience)
▪ Strong understanding of polymer fundamentals with solid chemistry/engineering fundamentals to learn new topics quickly.
▪ Experience with data science tools such as Python, JMP, MATLAB or Mathematica is strongly preferred.
Must have excellent organizational skills and attention to detail around laboratory procedures, sample management, and data storage.

Must be capable of working independently with limited supervision.

Strong team oriented professional with good interpersonal skills and a positive outlook.

Must have excellent organizational skills and be capable of working independently with limited supervision.

Ability to communicate ideas and information clearly and effectively (oral and written) to R&D leadership, associates, and other non-technical departments.

Has working knowledge of Microsoft Windows, Office, Outlook, Excel, and PowerPoint.

CLOSING
The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of the work being performed by employees assigned to this position. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required. MonoSol, LLC reserves the right to make changes to the job description whenever necessary.

DISCLAIMER
As part of MonoSol, LLC’s employment process, finalist candidates will be required to complete a drug test and background check prior to employment commencing. MonoSol, LLC is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, or marital status.