

PRINCIPAL FIREBREATHER (a.k.a. Project Technician)

Background

Takachar's vision is to dramatically increase the amount of biomass (crop and forest residues) economically converted into useful products. Our impacts include income and job creation in rural areas, as well as mitigation of CO₂ emission and air pollution associated with conventional open-air biomass residue burning. In places like California, improved vegetation management of non-merchantable residues may also mitigate the risks of catastrophic wildfires.

Responsibilities

A. *Internal testing*: We are currently testing a hardware prototype. We are seeking a Project Technician to coordinate this effort and supervisor 2-3 other on-site Engineering Interns. Initially (May-July 2021), you will assist in:

- Operating the equipment safely and continuously for a few hours a day under different operating conditions,
- Collecting data for remote analysis by our analysts,
- Arranging a steady supply of different types of biomass to ship to Richmond for our testing,
- Working with remote programmers to load updates onto the programmable logic controller system,
- Training new and existing Interns on certain aspects of the job, including giving demonstrations and tours of the prototype to visitors as needed, and
- Making iterative fabrications to improve the prototype at an outdoor space in Richmond, CA, including doing the fabrications yourself or interfacing with local metal fabricators.

B. *Field demonstration*: Starting in August 2021, we will be deploying this hardware equipment from Richmond to a forested landing in rural Mendocino County for further field testing. You will be:

- Leading the logistics and coordination for moving this 500 lb hardware equipment in various components to this remote location,
- Supervising 2-3 other on-site Engineering Interns from Takachar, as well as additional timber harvesting crew from the forest on the procurement of biomass and processing of the output samples,
- Operating the equipment safely and continuously for a few hours a day under different operating conditions,
- Spending a part of your time working in a rural environment (in California) under resource-constrained settings, where there may not be electricity or even cellular phone coverage.

During your employment, A and B will alternate. B (field demonstration) will also take place in different sites, depending on our partners' requirements. This position will be based in California.

Skills and Experience

Prior experience (at least 2 years) with hardware operations and logistics, especially biomass-related equipment, is helpful. This is a very hands-on job; please be prepared to get dirty. You also should not be afraid of working near fires and high heat.

Comfortable working with basic metal fabrication equipment and techniques, including: Cutting, rolling, bending, and (optionally) welding. Be able to advise and brainstorm with the team on the best and/or fastest fabrication solution to achieve a certain goal.

As we are an early-stage start-up, please expect that goals and targets will change at moment's notice, sometimes daily, depending on the unpredictable testing outcome and what is required at a given stage. For some people accustomed to working towards long-term targets, this may prove to be a frustrating experience. But flexibility and willingness to constantly learn and adapt is required when working in a small start-up company.

To Apply

Please send your resume and cover letter to info at takachar dot com. In your cover letter, please explain your long-term career goals and how this position may help you towards these goals.

Benefits

- Competitive salary
- Flexible time-off policy, paid parental leave
- Health benefits

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It is company policy to perform background checks and review candidate references. In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification form upon hire.