

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is a leading scientific and technology research organisation that researches, develops, localises and diffuses technologies to accelerate socio-economic prosperity in South Africa. The organisation's work contributes to industrial development and supports a capable state.

Research Group Leader: Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)

About the job:

The CSIR has a vacancy for a **Research Group Leader: DLT** in the Emerging Digital Technologies for fourth Industrial Revolution (EDT4IR) Research Centre within the Next Generation Enterprises and Institutions Cluster. The incumbent will be responsible for the provision of strategic and technical leadership to a research group, including people management, business development, financial sustainability and operations management. This position is based in Pretoria.

For more info about the impact area or cluster, please visit <https://www.csir.co.za/nextgen-enterprises-and-institutions>.

Key responsibilities:

- Contribute to strategic investment goal setting and development of RDI strategy;
- Implement the research, development and innovation (RD&I) strategy for the Research Centre;
- Lead researchers and engineers;
- Promote a culture of science, engineering and technology (SET) excellence and provide RDI leadership of multiple disciplines;
- Ensure that the area remains industry and/or service delivery relevant with national and international standing that is directed at cutting edge;
- Propose and/or contribute to the strategic investment plan and implement Parliamentary Grant, Contract Research and Development and other grant-funded projects;
- Develop and implement a business plan for operation, sustainable growth, impact and robustness of area (including strategy, goals, mission, HR, finances, technology transfer, IP and commercialization);
- Assume leadership in the provision of technical solutions to client programmes;
- Deeply understand the needs of the industry by integrating sector knowledge in multi-dimensional research and development programs in order to deliver industry aligned RDI;
- Ensure staff development and strategic Human Capital Development;
- Ensure a well-balanced cutting-edge SET capability, in terms of the elements of research, engineering design, or systems/enterprise engineering;
- Ensure SET outputs are achieved;
- Deliver on all KPIs of the area and ensure that all outputs are achieved, including transformation, profit and loss, quality, health, safety and environment as per agreed targets;
- Implement and comply with appropriate financial, business systems requirements, including operational approvals;
- Network with peers in the field's expertise within and outside the CSIR;
- Engage with clients and industry partners to develop long term relationships;
- Provide technical support on business development and participate in client interactions;
- Manage projects through planning of appropriate processes and policies to ensure Intellectual Property (IP) protection and technology transfer;

- Lead the strategic direction and day-to-day execution of blockchain and DLT R&D projects, including managing a multidisciplinary team of engineers and data scientists.
- Ensure timely delivery of technically complex outcomes related to cryptocurrency analytics, on- and off-chain data, and related blockchain protocols.
- In collaboration with the Business Development and Commercialization portfolio:
 - Drive the transfer of technology and solutions design to industry/user environment;
 - Package technologies for commercialisation or develop an “investment ready business” through financial modelling market assessment and business plan development.

Qualifications, skills and experience:

- A Bachelor’s degree in computer science/engineering, information technology or related field with at least six years’ experience in technologies domain research within a Research Development and Innovation environment, in blockchain, Distributed Ledger Technologies, or cryptocurrency-related field.
- Sound experience in managing a team of multi-disciplinary professions;
- Proven track record in project management and research project leadership;
- Ability to provide thought leadership and high-level conceptualisation;
- Ability to work independently as well as in teams;
- Business Development and financial acumen;
- Excellent communication and presentation skills;
- Conflict management skills;
- Decisiveness and action orientation;
- Project Management skills.
- Appropriate national and international Research Development and Innovation networks;
- An understanding of the research to market ‘innovation’ value chain.

What's in it for you?

The CSIR offers:

- 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.

Should you meet the above requirements, please email your CV to jobapplications@csir.co.za with your name and surname, position title and reference number in the subject line, **(e.g. John Smith: Research Group Leader – Distributed Ledger Technology: Reference No: 315001)**

Closing date: 03 August 2026

PLEASE NOTE THAT FEEDBACK WILL BE GIVEN TO SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES ONLY.

For more info, please contact the CSIR Recruitment Centre on **012 841 4774** or email us at Recruitmentinfo@csir.co.za

*The CSIR is an equal opportunity employer. As such, it is committed to the employment Equity Act and will through the filling of this vacancy, give preference to candidates from designated groups in terms of the Employment Equity Act. By applying for this position at the CSIR, the applicant understands, and agrees that the CSIR may solicit a credit and criminal report from registered credit bureau and/or South African Police Services (in relation to positions that requires trust and honesty and/or entail the handling of cash or finances) and may also verify the applicant's educational qualification and employment history. **The CSIR reserves the right to remove the***

advertisement at any time before the stated closing date, and it further reserves the right not to appoint if a suitable candidate is not identified.



SCAM ALERT!

Our vacancies are advertised on our **www.csir.co.za** website and promoted through the CSIR official social media platforms.

- If it is not on our website, it is not our vacancy.
- The CSIR will never send you an employment contract without at least one panel interview and psychometric assessment.
- **Report fraudulent offers to: Recruitmentinfo@csir.co.za**