

Propulsion Test Site Technician

Full-Time or Part-Time Considered

Summary

This is a practical, hands-on role for someone who enjoys building, assembling and supporting engineering hardware in a real test environment. The Propulsion Test Site Technician plays an important part in ensuring the test site is properly prepared, functional and ready for safe and successful testing.

Role Description

The Propulsion Test Site Technician supports practical build, preparation and assembly as part of propulsion test activities at the E-Site Propulsion Test Facility. The role is focused on hands-on assembly, rig maintenance and test-day preparation, ensuring that propulsion hardware, fluids systems and support equipment are correctly installed, functional and ready for safe and efficient testing. This includes site upgrades and odd jobs as well as rig builds and maintenance. This position is well suited to someone who is practical, mechanically minded and able to solve problems quickly in a workshop and test environment.

Protolaunch operates the E-Site Propulsion Test facility where this role is based. This facility is a modified 1950s rocket engine test site with a number of modern day rocket propulsion test cells based in shipping containers. This role will often involve working outside in the elements in shipping container test rigs.

We're looking for great motivated people to join the team and will consider a range of experiences.

Both full-time or part-time contract options will be considered.

Space sector specific experience is not required.

About Protolaunch

Protolaunch is a rocket propulsion company established in 2019 focused on developing and qualifying satellite propulsion systems. Protolaunch operates a dedicated Propulsion Test Facility located at E-Site, Westcott Venture Park, Buckinghamshire, UK with collocated office and lab facilities.

Protolaunch is developing a range of in-space propulsion products in-house and works with a number of commercial and institutional customers to offer outsourced R&D as well as testing & qualification services for space sector projects.

Testing that take place at E-Site includes: Hot fire rocket engine tests with thrusts ranging from 20N to 6000N, water flow characterisation tests for valves and similar components, and, pressure and burst tests etc.

Protolaunch is currently a small team of less than 15 people.

Job Details

Job Location

This role primarily consists of hands-on practical activities and requires in-person working at E-Site. You will be required to travel to Westcott Venture Park, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, on a daily basis. Due to the remote location of the test facility there are no feasible public transport options therefore holding a driving licence and your own personal vehicle are essential requirements to get to work.

Job Responsibilities

The Propulsion Test Site Technician will support the setup, maintenance and operation of propulsion test rigs and associated infrastructure. This includes assembling and modifying rig hardware, preparing systems for test, and helping ensure that test activities run smoothly on the day.

The role includes bending, routing and fitting tubing for pressurised systems, as well as installing associated fittings, valves, regulators, brackets and mechanical supports.

The role will assist test engineers and test site staff with rig setup, test preparation and post-test turnaround activities. A key part of the role is being able to take a practical approach to solving problems and making things work safely and effectively under time pressure.

The role requires maintaining high standards of housekeeping, workshop organisation and safety at the test site. The technician will be expected to follow site procedures, contribute to safe systems of work, and help ensure that equipment and work areas are kept in a clean, serviceable and orderly condition.

The ideal candidate will be practical, reliable and highly hands-on, with a strong bias toward action and problem solving. They should enjoy building, fixing and improving physical hardware, and take pride in producing robust and tidy work. They should be comfortable working in a fast-paced engineering environment where priorities can shift and where practical support on the day of test is critical.

A flexible and team-oriented attitude is important, as the role involves close collaboration with engineers and test staff to achieve safe and successful test operations.

This role is primarily based at a propulsion test site and will involve a mixture of workshop-based assembly, outdoor and semi-industrial test site work, and direct support to live test operations. The work may involve lifting, manual handling, use of PPE, and working around pressurised systems and test infrastructure.

Essential Skills & Qualifications

- Hands on practical experience building things.
- Comfortable using hand tools and power tools.
- Motivated to work in a small company with a rapidly changing startup environment.
- Passionate about space, curious and eager to learn.
- Take ownership and accountability for your own actions and mistakes.
- Can-do attitude and outstanding communication skills.

To Apply:

Applicants should email a CV to careers@protolaunch.co.uk. In your email, please include answers to the following questions:

- 1) At time of applying do you currently have right to work in the UK?
- 2) Will you need visa sponsorship now or in the future to work in the UK?
- 3) Are you prepared to work in-person at Westcott Venture Park as required?
- 4) Do you have the ability to travel to Westcott Venture Park (driving licence and vehicle)?
- 5) What would be your soonest available start date?