**Engineering Production Manager (Fleet Introduction)**

**Job Type:** Full-time

**Reports to:** TBC

**About the Role:**

We are seeking a strategic **Production Lead** to play a critical role in the successful introduction of replacement rolling stock. This position will involve defining the overall strategy for integrating new train fleets into our maintenance operations, being accountable for evaluating maintenance propositions and implementing necessary production facility changes, and ensuring seamless collaboration across engineering, operations, and infrastructure teams. This role will be responsible for driving efficiency, safety, and cost-effectiveness throughout the fleet introduction process and ensuring long-term operational readiness.

**Key Responsibilities:**

* Develop and champion the overarching strategy for the integration of new rolling stock maintenance, ensuring alignment with Southeastern’s business objectives, safety standards, and budgetary constraints.
* Accountable for evaluating train maintenance propositions to ensure they align with operational, safety, and cost-effectiveness requirements.
* Oversee and direct the assessment and overseeing the implementation of necessary changes to production and maintenance facilities to accommodate the new rolling stock.
* Accountable for developing and delivering the necessary depot transition plans required to support product introduction, whilst minimising the operation impact.
* Establish and maintain strong collaborative relationships with depot management, operational teams, and infrastructure owners to ensure smooth transition and readiness for new rolling stock introduction.
* Accountable for the development of maintenance strategies and lifecycle cost assessments for new rolling stock, ensuring long-term sustainability and value.
* Accountable for ensuring compliance with relevant Engineering standards, safety regulations, and industry best practices.
* Work closely with rolling stock manufacturers to define maintenance and production requirements.
* Proactively identify potential risks and mitigation strategies related to production facility modifications and train maintenance implementation.
* Manage the monitoring and reporting on the progress of infrastructure modifications and maintenance readiness plans.
* Drive a culture of continuous improvement across maintenance and production processes, setting strategic direction for enhancing efficiency, reliability, and safety.
* Accountable for the planning and allocation of resources for training and tooling needs as necessary for all Engineering operations.

**Essential Qualifications & Experience:**

* Degree in Mechanical, Electrical, or Railway Engineering (or equivalent experience).
* Significant leadership experience in rolling stock maintenance, production, or engineering project management.
* Strong strategic understanding of depot operations, infrastructure requirements, and rolling stock maintenance strategies.
* Demonstrable experience in leading the implementation of production facility changes for new train introduction.
* Excellent stakeholder management and influencing skills, with the ability to build consensus and drive collaboration at all levels.
* Strong strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities, with extensive experience in risk management and mitigation.
* Comprehensive knowledge of UK rail standards, safety regulations, and industry best practices.

**Desirable Skills:**

* Chartered Engineer status (or working towards it).
* Experience in digital train maintenance technologies and predictive maintenance systems
* Knowledge of the associated operations relating to train maintenance undertakings currently in place at Slade Green, Grove Park and Gillingham.
* Understanding of and commitment to sustainable and energy-efficient maintenance practices.
* Experience in managing contract negotiations related to train maintenance and depot modifications.