

FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRADE ASSOCIATIONS CHIEF EXECUTIVE –SPECIFICATION

ABOUT FETA (www.feta.co.uk)

FETA is the federation which promotes, represents and supports six trade associations whose over 400 member companies provide heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) systems and related products and services to the construction and building services sectors. The family of FETA associations comprises:

- Association of Ductwork Contractors and Allied Services
- Building Controls Industry Association
- British Flue and Chimney Manufacturers Association
- British Refrigeration Association
- Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Manufacturers Association
- Heat Pump Association

As well as providing secretariat and administrative support services to the member associations, FETA staff work closely with and support members on a range of issues such as technical standards and developments, legislative/regulatory affairs, economic and market matters and business support.

Although a relatively small body, with five staff and turnover c. £0.5m, FETA enjoys considerable loyalty from its member associations and is a highly respected body which punches above its weight in its relations with government, relevant regulatory and standards authorities and other industry and professional bodies in the sector. It achieves this both through ad hoc partnerships on specific issues and more formally (for example, as a member of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Board [ACRIB] and as a founding member of Actuate, the umbrella body for UK engineering services).

FETA's governance and direction is based on a board comprising the senior officers of the member associations. In addition, there are a number of standing and ad hoc committees which cover specific issues where appropriate.

THE REQUIREMENT

Context and background to this appointment

The FETA Board now looks to appoint a new Chief Executive to succeed Russell Beattie, who will retire in mid-2021.

The new Chief Executive will be joining at an exciting and challenging time for the organisation, for its constituent associations and for the sector. Apart from the operational and economic demands placed on companies during the Covid pandemic, the overall built environment and manufacturing supply chains are affected by important strands of public policy such as building safety, sustainability (especially in support of the Net Zero Carbon agenda) and environmental responsibility. FETA also has an important leadership role to play as the HVACR sector responds to significant standards issues, such as those which have come to light as a result of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, and wider questions such as the economic, commercial and regulatory impact of Brexit, all of which present opportunities as well as challenges for FETA members.

Strategically, therefore, FETA has significant potential to build on its strong positioning and sound finances and increase its visibility and influence whilst continuing to deliver effective, value-adding support and services to members, with a growing emphasis on digitisation in all areas of operation.

The role

- Senior executive of the Federation, reporting to the Board and responsible for all operational, financial, resourcing and administrative aspects of FETA
- The principal face and voice of FETA and its constituent associations and companies to a variety of audiences:
 - Membership: engage with, support and develop current (and potentially future) member associations, providing the highest levels of service, representation and protection of their current and future interests
 - Government and regulators: develop productive relationships at all appropriate levels of the policy and regulatory ladder including ministers and officials in relevant government departments (including devolved administrations where appropriate), regulatory bodies and other agencies
 - Strategic partners and stakeholders: develop FETA as an influential leader in the family of trade and professional bodies in related sectors
 - EU/international: where relevant or ongoing, to lead FETA's contribution in supranational forums
- Lead, manage and develop the FETA executive team

The role is based at FETA's offices between Reading and Maidenhead, although there is a requirement for some national and international travel on company business.

Candidate specification

- An accomplished, professional and versatile senior executive with strong attributes in respect of leadership, people and operational management, planning and delivery; international experience a distinct plus
- Technical/sector knowledge: likely to have a STEM-orientated education/professional background, ideally to include some understanding of the technical and engineering context of issues faced by FETA members
- An assured board-level operator, used to working at a strategic level. Must have the necessary stature and authority to represent FETA credibly at all levels; a confident, persuasive communicator with first-class relationship-building and diplomatic skills
- Policy and public affairs: an understanding of relevant UK and supranational legislative and regulatory processes and others as they affect FETA members
- A responsible business manager, with sound financial planning, budget management and commercial skills and ideally with a good understanding of corporate governance

REMUNERATION

The attractive package offered for this role will be based on a salary commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications and experience, together with additional benefits including an employer pension contribution of 7% of basic salary, medical insurance and a car allowance.

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