https://www.nedcapital.co.uk/job/independent-non-executive-director-defence-and-aerospace-engineering-manufacturer/

Independent Non-Executive Director – Defence and Aerospace Engineering Manufacturer

Hiring organization
Ned Capital

Employment Type
Part-time

Beginning of employment
1st January 2027

Duration of employment
Perm

Job Location
Kent, United Kingdom

Working Hours
9-5

Base Salary
£ 18,000 - £ 18,000

Date posted
November 28, 2026

Valid through
31.12.2026

Description

NED Capital is recruiting an Independent Non-Executive Director for the board of a privately owned engineering manufacturer in Kent. The business is an established SME that manufactures for demanding customers, including major defence and aerospace companies.

The board wants an experienced independent voice to challenge and support it on strategy, capital investment and operational risk. Customers in regulated sectors look closely at how their suppliers are governed, so the board is looking for someone who has led a complex manufacturing or engineering business and understands what good governance looks like in a private company.

You will work closely with the Managing Director and the Chair. Alongside regular board meetings, the role includes consultation between meetings and occasional strategy days or projects. Defence or product-specific experience is welcome but not essential. What matters most is sound board-level judgement from a comparable business.

Responsibilities

Bring independent challenge to the board on strategy, growth plans and the direction of the business.
Test and support decisions on capital spending, including investment in plant, equipment, facilities and systems.
Help the board understand and manage supply-chain resilience, including dependence on key suppliers and materials.
Oversee quality and operational risk, so that the business continues to meet the standards its defence and aerospace customers expect.
Challenge and support the board on health, safety and environmental performance.
Help the board plan for succession and develop the senior team.
Act as a sounding board to the Managing Director and Chair between board meetings.
Take part in strategy days and occasional projects where your experience adds value.

Qualifications

Board or Managing Director-level leadership experience.
A background in manufacturing or engineering, or in a similarly complex operational business.
Experience of privately owned SMEs and how their boards work.
A clear understanding of good governance and the role of an independent director.
Desirable: experience in defence, aerospace or another regulated sector.
Desirable: experience of supplying major OEMs or prime contractors.
Desirable: experience of significant capital expenditure decisions, and a network that could benefit the business.
Able to commit time to board meetings, consultation with the Managing Director and

Chair, and occasional strategy days.

Job Benefits

An independent board seat with a well-established, privately owned engineering business.
Real influence over strategy, investment and risk at a company serving demanding defence and aerospace customers.
Close working with the Managing Director and Chair, with short decision lines.
A part-time commitment that can sit alongside an executive role or a non-executive portfolio.
Remuneration to be agreed with the board.