Chief Technology Officer (CTO)

OPERAS is the Research Infrastructure supporting open scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in the European Research Area. Its mission is to coordinate and federate resources in Europe to efficiently address the scholarly communication needs of European researchers in the field of SSH.

The European landscape of scholarly communication in the SSH is currently patchy, fragmented and not organized enough to be efficient, particularly to address the challenge of transitioning to Open Science. This is due to several factors, such as the small size of resource providers, the historical underfunding and lack of sustainability in this area, the variety of technical skills and resources across the community. The nature of the SSH disciplines also adds specific challenges which are not correctly addressed at scale, such as the diversity of publication languages, the entrenchment in diverse cultural backgrounds and the need for specific forms of scholarly communication (monographs, critical editions, and edited bibliographies, amongst others).

By fulfilling its mission, OPERAS provides the research community with the missing brick it needs to find, access, create, edit, disseminate and easily and efficiently validate SSH outputs across Europe. In one word, OPERAS unlocks scholarly communication resources and enables the whole field to reinvent itself in the new Open Science paradigm.

The OPERAS AISBL was established in 2020 and we are now seeking to recruit a Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for this organisation.

The responsibilities

The CTO will provide technical leadership to the OPERAS AISBL. The role will serve as the primary driver and catalyst for delivery of the technical ambitions of the OPERAS Research Infrastructure.

The role will require co-ordination and delivery of technical solutions and policies in collaboration with OPERAS AISBL members and associated stakeholders. The ability to drive innovation and delivery via a breadth of stakeholders shall be key to addressing the primary technical challenges and prerequisites to implementing the OPERAS ecosystem.

Delivery on the technical ambitions of OPERAS shall thus be achieved via co-ordination and collaboration through working and advisory groups, task forces, partnerships, and other stakeholder fora, as well as other European and International organisations and projects in the scope of OPERAS. It should be noted that a key feature of the OPERAS solution design philosophy is to leverage existing technical solutions from across the community where applicable and appropriate.

The CTO will be based preferably in Brussels and shall report to the Secretary General of the OPERAS AISBL. Furthermore, candidates should be willing to travel within Europe and
beyond, available to work beyond office hours when needed, and able to work flexibly when there are conflicting demands.

The CTO will also assume responsibility for co-ordination of internal ICT services and ICT supports to the OPERAS AISBL staff and office.

Other tasks include, among others:

- Defining the technical strategy for ensuring the delivery, sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness of the first set of OPERAS’ main services;
- Devising and overseeing plans to execute on technical strategy over the period 2022-25;
- Preparing in collaboration with the other members of the coordination team, the technical budget;
- Coordinating task forces, working groups, and other fora as they might relate to execution of OPERAS technical strategy;
- To drive and devise an overarching technical plan for each of the main OPERAS areas;
- Engage with service providers in order to improve the services offered to OPERAS’ users;
- To report on technical strategy and progress to members, stakeholders and the EC;
- To support the procurement of technical elements by the OPERAS AISBL, its members, or via EC funding calls, including the definition of technical elements therein;
- To support the OPERAS AISBL in reporting on its key performance indicators;
- Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the OPERAS AISBL;
- Facilitating progression towards digital organisation;
- Serving and advising the Secretary General, Coordinators and Executive Assembly members;
- Participating in events of Members and delivering specialised services (i.e. answering questions, giving presentations and speeches and organising visits);
- Facilitating progression toward a sustainable and carbon-neutral organisation;
- Preparation of technical plans and technical strategy for subsequent OPERAS development stages over periods 2025-2029

The requirements

The role requires a multi-cultural, politically savvy individual, with technical awareness across the breadth of the OPERAS layers.

The candidate should also evidence diplomatic abilities and an understanding of the diverse environment the OPERAS AISBL operates in as well as a being able to convey a compelling vision and strategy.
Ideally, the candidate should also have an international reputation with experience in EC funding.

**Key requirements include:**

- Minimum of five years’ experience (or equivalent) of successful delivery of complex technological solutions or projects to the research community;
- Minimum of five years’ experience (or equivalent) of successful setup and delivery of Services Management Systems for distributed research community;
- An advocate for Open Science and strong awareness of the EOSC and Open Science ambition;
- EU national or residing in one of the OPERAS Member States with legal entitlement to work in the EU;
- Fluent in English.

**In terms of experience, we are looking for someone who is or has:**

- A proven track record of large-scale technical delivery to the research and education sector;
- Excellent knowledge of IT infrastructures and technical solutions as they apply to the research environment;
- Excellent relationship-building and networking skills, strong team-working and leadership skills;
- A proven problem-solver with and an ability to work effectively across different technical domains;
- Evident leadership skills and the ability to build high-performing teams and task forces across a variety of disciplines;
- A proven ability to co-ordinate and manage virtual teams;
- Strong interpersonal skills with proven ability to influence in an effective and positive manner;
- Knowledge and experience of European science administration practices at EU and national or institutional level in European science institutions;
- Documented track record in and knowledge of European research, education and innovation landscapes and related advocacy;
- Experience in working with membership-based organisation, senior university leaders, research infrastructure coordinators, EU-project coordinators, senior academics and policymakers in the international context.
- In addition to fluency in English, fluency in at least one other European language would be an asset.
Offer

- The position is a permanent position.
- This is a full-time position based in Brussels.
- Remote working opportunities can be considered.
- Salary package will be based on the successful candidate experience and national labour laws.

Equal opportunities

- The OPERAS AISBL is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment and is proud to be an equal opportunities employer.
- All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age or veteran status.

Process and timescale (provisional)

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<td>Closing date for applications</td>
<td>15 November 2021 – 5:00PM CET</td>
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<td>Interviews &amp; Decision</td>
<td>22 – 26 November 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected Starting Date</td>
<td>3 January 2022</td>
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An assessment may be part of the selection process.

To apply

Please send a cover letter and your CV to yannick.legre@operas-eu.org

Only direct applications from candidates are taken into account. The OPERAS AISBL does not appreciate any acquisition by third parties regarding this position.