

Sustainable Development Investments Asset Owner Platform (SDI AOP)

Vacancy Research Director (32-40 hpw)



ABOUT SDI AOP

The Sustainable Development Investments (SDI) Asset Owner Platform (AOP) was newly founded in 2020 with the primary objective of accelerating market adoption of investments aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The platform is asset owner-backed which underpins the long-term perspective that a sustainable, resilient future will mean superior long term returns for our beneficiaries. In order to achieve this, the framework and taxonomy are continuously evolving in line with scientific and market developments and are the basis for classifying currently over 8000 companies according to their contribution to the SDGs based on their core business, their products & services. Such measurement provides objective insight for investors based on advanced data science techniques that can be integrated directly into investment processes, risk management and client reporting capabilities. Moreover, it enables transparent and credible reporting to external stakeholders. and external The SDI AOP has been developed by investors and has the unique advantage of evolving based on the needs and practical experiences of investors.

The SDI definition and taxonomy which form the backbone of the SDI Asset Owner Platform were developed by Dutch pension investors APG and PGGM in 2016/17. With AustralianSuper and British Columbia Investment (BCI) joining in 2020, the SDI AOP has now established global representation and is positioned to become a leading global standard for the investment community.

The ambition of these asset owners is to grow the platform into a globally applied standard in the field of sustainable development investment and outcomes measurement and we are seeking an individual to lead day-to-day activities for the SDI AOP and contribute to the future strategy of this exciting and growing initiative.

ABOUT THE ROLE

The SDI Asset Owner platform is a highly innovative environment, and the Research Director will play a crucial role in the success of the organisation's future growth. Working with the technology and distribution partners of the platform, you will be responsible for developing and leading the research agenda which will underpin the strategic direction for the organisation into the future. In order to achieve our strategy, you will be required to act as the key liaison between leading asset owners in the area of responsible investing and the technology partner to which the identification and calculation of SDIs has been commissioned. You will be required to supervise the translation of the research recommendations and the way in which they are operationalized within the SDI Asset Owner platform, also in close cooperation with our appointed technology provider. Furthermore, your role is to manage the research efforts of the platform, either carried out through its members or commissioned to third parties to ensure that the SDI AOP remains on the cutting edge of which products & services make a meaningful contribution to the SDGs. The SDI AOP's development path includes a deepening and broadening of coverage, including outcomes-based and forward-looking metrics.

The ideal candidate will be prepared to be working within different time zones and travel periodically to visit the data science team in The Netherlands and the DA member organizations in The Netherlands, Canada and Australia. Your key stakeholders are the Asset Owner governing members and their representatives through the primary governance body of the SDI AOP, referred to as the Design Authority. You will also regularly interact with users and potential users of the SDI AOP, meeting with them regularly to glean insights about how the standard can continue to evolve. We envisage that the SDI AOP conducts regular consultation with a broader group of stakeholders to tap into their expertise to inform the continued development of the standard. You will be supported by an office manager whose role will be to take care of the secretarial aspects of the SDI AOP. You are expected to operate as an independent contractor and not an employee of the SDI AOP.

To be successful in this role, you will need to have a strong interest and understanding of the subject matter of responsible investment in general, as well Sustainable Development. Additionally, you will need to have an affinity with data science.



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YOUR PROFILE

You have the following skills to be considered for this position:

- ✓ Academic degree, preferably at Masters level or above in business, finance, environmental science or a sustainability-related degree
- ✓ Demonstrable affinity with the investment sector as well as responsible investment
- ✓ Experience with translating research into actionable product development
- ✓ Advanced skills in traditional and modern research with the ability to coordinate, oversee and set a leading research agenda
- ✓ Proven track record in leading, developing and coordinating international research in a relevant field
- ✓ Strong language skills in English and ideally in at least one other language and demonstrated ability to effectively communicate with various stakeholders including clients
- ✓ Entrepreneurial mindset
- ✓ A strong personal brand within the industry and/or academic community would be advantageous

THE OFFER

The SDI Asset Owner Platform is driven by institutional investors working in a diverse, ambitious and inspiring market. We offer an environment for professional and personal growth in which you can – and are expected to – build your professional skill set. We expect the platform to grow, which offers the opportunities to grow with the organization. As an organization we value cooperation, knowledge sharing and independence. The position we offer has a strong societal relevance and offers more than just the salary, which is competitive.

WANT TO KNOW MORE OR APPLY FOR THE JOB?

Please have a look out our website: <https://www.sdi-aop.org>

You can send your questions or applications to

vacancy@sdi-aop.org

