Scientist – Fibers & Composites

Updated: August 30, 2021

Company Overview
Michelman is a global developer and manufacturer of environmentally friendly advanced materials for industry, offering solutions for the coatings, printing & packaging, and industrial manufacturing markets. The company’s surface modifiers, additives, and polymers are used by leading manufacturers around the world to enhance performance attributes and add value in applications including wood and floor care products, metal and industrial coatings, paints, varnishes, inks, fibers, and composites. Michelman is also well-known as an innovator in the development of barrier and functional coatings, as well as digital printing press primers that are used in the production of consumer and industrial packaging and paper products, labels, and commercially printed materials. Michelman serves its customers with production facilities in North America, Europe, and Asia, product development and technical service centers in several major global markets, and a worldwide team of highly trained business development personnel.

General Summary
We have a great opportunity for a Scientist to join the Global Research & Development (R&D) organization for our Fibers and Composites Business segment.

Informed by important market needs and new trends, you will develop waterborne product prototypes through your ability to connect structure/property fundamentals with novel product functionality.

Your mindset for identifying problems and creating solutions will fuel a “reason to believe” for the novel functional benefits to be provided by Michelman materials in a way which will help accelerate the growth of the Fibers and Composites Business segment.

Excellent problem-solving skills and creativity will be essential to your success as they will allow you to quickly screen new technologies and materials for fit both with the market and with Michelman. Further, it will be essential that you develop a strong collaborative network with other groups including colleagues in Technology, Sales, Marketing, and Manufacturing to convert novel concepts into successful product platforms.

Primary Responsibilities

- Propose and execute new (and sometimes complex) product development experiments to be enabled by existing lab scale processes
- Develop prototype formulations and test them against the success criteria that have been established for their intended application
- Identify new product/process optimization, technical solutions and innovation, and new application opportunities for the business unit that are supported by practical results
- Help create process-related data (up to pilot scale) which will aid in the scale-up of product prototypes and lead to their commercialization
- Document thoroughly and accurately all experiments, analyses, and testing results
- Ensure timely delivery of project-related information/results to company partners
- Contribute to reports (written and verbal) on technical results/conclusions to business and technology leadership
- Partner with Safety/Regulatory to ensure new materials are approved for internal use
• Become an expert resource on select equipment, tools, methods, and processes relevant to Fibers and Composites applications
• Maintain a clean and safe work environment
• Understand and follow established procedures
• Perform related duties as assigned or as the situation dictates

Critical Competencies, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

• Working knowledge of formulating and characterizing emulsions/dispersions, as well as related coating/sizing applications testing, is a strong plus
• Exceedingly curious personality
• Excellent analytical and observation skills
• Experience working with laboratory-scale equipment (e.g. Parr reactors) to prepare materials for subsequent evaluation
• Ability to make technical decisions and complete assigned tasks independently
• Time-management skills to allow for contribution to multiple technical projects simultaneously
• Ability to proactively provide relevant and detailed observations while managing multiple competing priorities to accomplish assigned tasks
• Ability to effectively document novel laboratory methods with minimal supervisory input
• Strong interpersonal, communication (written and verbal), and collaboration skills

Education and Experience

• Minimum of Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Polymer/Materials Science or related field required
• At least 3 years of relevant laboratory experience in an industrial setting developing and evaluating formulated products is highly desirable (emulsions/dispersions/coatings/films and the like)
• Hands-on experience with analytical instrumentation and equipment, including laser PSA, FT-IR, DSC, TGA, rheometry, viscometry, microscopy, and beyond

Other

• Able to travel by car or plane to visit customers when needed
• Role may on occasion require long periods of standing and/or an extended work schedule
• Role may require heavy lifting from time to time (as much as 50 lbs. to waist level)
• Role will demand appropriate use of PPE - including safety shoes, safety glasses, various gloves, and other appropriate clothing

Note: The statements above are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to the job. They are not construed to be an exhaustive list of responsibilities, duties, and skills required of personnel. Furthermore, they do not establish a contract for employment and are subject to change at the discretion of the employer.

About Michelman

Michelman is proud of the values-focused work environment that we have crafted. We pride ourselves in our focus on our values of integrity, respect, and success. With our dedication to your technical and professional growth in addition to our rigorous onboarding experience, we guarantee that you will find
yourself challenged in new ways. We offer an excellent salary, incentive, and benefits package in a
dynamic, empowered team environment.

No phone calls, please. Michelman does not hire individuals who use tobacco products. All candidates
will receive a drug test prior to beginning employment which will include a test for tobacco products.

For more information about Michelman, please visit https://www.michelman.com/.

It is Michelman, Inc. policy to seek and employ qualified persons in all jobs in a manner which will
ensure equal employment opportunity as well as administer personnel actions in a manner as to not
discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or
disability. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform
the essential functions.

*Michelman is an Equal Opportunity Employer Minorities/Females/Disabled/Veterans*