# Director, National AI Centre

The following information is for applicants

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| Advertised Job Title**:** | Director, National AI Centre |
| Reference Number**:** | 78802 |
| Classification**:** | CSOF8 |
| Salary Range: | Attractive salary package is negotiable |
| Location**:** | Australia |
| Tenure: | 4 year specified term |
| Relocation assistance**:** | Will be provided to the successful candidate if required. |
| Applications are open to: | All candidates |
| Reports to the: | Director, Data61 |

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| **Role Overview:** |
| The Director is responsible for establishing and fostering a national connected AI ecosystem. Commercial nous, the ability to quickly to form strategic relationships and build a sustainable business model are fundamental capability requirements of the position.  The Centre Director will be a thought leader in AI, an expert communicator able to bring together an ecosystem of stakeholders including universities, SMEs, large corporates, state and federal government. The Centre Director will also lead fund-raising efforts for the Centre and will be expected to bring in investment from industry and other sources.  The Director will define a vision for the new Centre, lead the development and implementation of a strategy to implement this vision, and will also put in place a long term financially sustainable business model. As the Centre is primarily concerned with business adoption and commercialisation of AI, the Director will need to be experienced in working with business.  The role will be supported by administrative staff including an Executive Manager to manage all operational aspects, and two Engagement Coordinators. The role will also have access to resources in related initiatives in CSIRO, including an AI Communications Manager, and student programs associated with the Next Generation AI Graduates Program.  **National AI Centre**  Australia’s National AI Roadmap estimates that the AI sector will be worth $315 billion to the Australian economy by 2028 and $22 trillion to the global economy by 2030.  Recently, The Australian Government has announced its support for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Australia by:   * investing $53.8 million over four years to create the National Artificial Intelligence Centre that will drive business adoption of AI technologies by coordinating Australia's AI expertise and capabilities; * providing $33.7 million over four years to support Australian businesses to partner with government to pilot projects for AI‑based solutions to national challenges; * investing $24.7 million over six years in the skills of the future by establishing the Next Generation AI Graduates Program to attract and train home-grown, job-ready AI specialists; and * providing $12 million over five years to catalyse the AI opportunity in our regions by co-funding up to 36 competitive grants to develop AI solutions that address local or regional problems.   **National AI Centre – Lifting Australian businesses' AI capability**  CSIRO’s Data61 aims to act as an enabler to bring together Australia’s strong AI capabilities, avoiding siloing and fragmentation and facilitating Australia to take a lead on the world stage.  Establishing the National AI Centre alongside four Digital Capability Centres will lay the foundations for an Australian AI and digital ecosystem. These Centres will help drive business adoption and the use of transformative AI technologies to improve productivity and lift competitiveness.  The National AI Centre (within CSIRO’s Data61) will coordinate Australia's AI expertise and capabilities, and address barriers that small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face in adopting and developing AI and emerging technology. The Centre will also:   * support projects that lift AI business capability to use cutting edge technology across multiple sectors, foster collaboration between industry and researchers, and attract investment; * provide a ‘front door’ for SMEs looking for talent, knowledge and the tools to adopt transformational AI technologies; * work across the entire AI ecosystem to ensure that activities delivered by each of the Capability Centres are strategically aligned; and * Four Digital Capability Centres will be appointed through a competitive process that will focus on specific applications of AI, such as robotics or AI assisted manufacturing.   Four Digital Capability Centres  These Centres will provide SMEs with:   * connections to AI equipment, tools and research; * access to advice and training to help SMEs confidently adopt AI technologies; and * links with the required AI expertise to identify business needs and connect them to leading researchers. |

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| **Duties and Key Result Areas:** |
| **Impact Leadership**   * Lead a national program in Artificial Intelligence with a focus on building awareness, business adoption and commercialisation, with a particular focus on SMEs; * Crowd-in investment by publishing advice and guidance on areas of emerging technologies expertise within Australia. This will place a spotlight on key centres of excellence across industry and the research sector where both domestic and inbound investment could be directed, and where Australian AI capabilities could be commercialised and sold to the world; * Fund projects that lower barriers to AI adoption. This will include identifying and seed funding projects that have broad applicability for SMEs across sectors, align with the objectives and activities of the Capability Centres and have potential spill-over effects, for example a solution that supports businesses to embed and adopt AI ethics principles into their system designs or executive training on AI adoption and development; * Identify opportunities to contribute to overcoming stakeholder adoption challenges; * Catalyse innovation – form/support networks, review and sponsor exploratory and science capability development projects.   **Engagement and Partnerships**   * Build a national network of industry, government and universities around the development and application of AI in Australia; * Build strategic relationships within the organisation to execute on the National AI Centre strategy, including fostering mobility and cross‐business unit deployment of staff, and developing productive relationships; * Develop and maintain national and/or international professional networks to keep abreast of emerging advances in relevant fields and industry challenges; * Represent Australia’s National AI Centre. Be a thought leader for AI in Australia and internationally; * Effective engagement with customers/clients/partners and identifies opportunities for future collaboration within and beyond CSIRO.   **Capability Leadership**   * Communicate the vision to inspire, sustain and nurture awareness of AI in the broader Australian community; * Develop and implement a strategy for how Australia can increase business adoption of AI with a view to jobs creation; * Manage a program of activities to support AI nationally, in particular, leading the coordination of four Digital Capability Centres; * Sustain and enhance a culture of technology excellence, creativity, innovation and flexibility, creating a strong AI ecosystem; * Work across the entire AI ecosystem to ensure that activities delivered by each of the Capability Centres are strategically aligned; * Liaise with the Next Generation AI Graduates program by drawing on the expertise of the Capability Centres to identify where job-ready graduates could be placed to best add value to our businesses and the ecosystem to drive the development of high-end, sector specific, job ready AI skills and talent. |

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| **Key Capabilities:** |
| **Values and Behaviours**   * **People First:** We put the safety and wellbeing of our people above all else, and we know that diversity is the compass to navigate innovation. (*Respect, Caring, Inclusive*) * **Trusted:** We earn trust everywhere, because we deal only in facts, and we operate with unwavering integrity. (*Partnering, Cooperative, Humble*) * **Further Together**: We collaborate widely and generously to boldly take on challenges that are bigger than ourselves. (*Curious, Adaptive, Entrepreneurial)* * **Making it Real:** We don't just do research – we deliver solutions that create change in our world. (*Accountable, Authentic, Courageous*) |

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| **Selection Criteria:** |
| *Under CSIRO policy only those who meet all essential criteria can be appointed*  **Pre-Requisites:**  **Education/Qualifications:** Bachelor’s or master’s degree in Computer Science, Engineering, or other related field.  **Required Competencies:**   1. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Creates and fosters an environment in which there is a high level of cooperation within and between teams. Facilitates positive team relationships to build interactions across Business Units and the organisation. 2. **Influence and Communication**: Uses complex influencing strategies, for example, assembling strategic coalitions, building behind the scenes support and the tactical use of information to gain support. 3. **Resource Management/Leadership:** Contributes to or defines Business Unit / organisational policy directions, strategic planning and operationalises the vision for staff and gains commitment to the direction chosen. Plans, seeks, allocates resources and monitors to achieve outcomes. Adopts a mentor role. 4. **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Resolves major conceptual scientific, technical, commercial or management problems, which have a significant impact upon the field of research, professional function, the Business Unit or the Organisation. Situations faced have little or no precedent and require original concepts and approaches. 5. **Independence:** Commits significant resources in the face of uncertainty and takes calculated risks to improve performance and achieve challenging goals. Uses personal energy to drive change strategies. Formulates and implements contingency plans to minimise the impact of potential risks. Accepts personal responsibility for the outcomes of decisions/risks taken. 6. **Adaptability:**Is flexible in response to external change or when faced with external constraints. Identifies and promotes the opportunities arising as a result of change.     **Experience**  **Industry Experience**   * Recognised leader in AI, with more than 10 years of experience driving horizontal business growth through application and adoption of emerging technologies * Good track record in finance and risk management   **Thought Leadership**   * Sought after expert by industry, and policy councils for her/his ability to understand complex missions and problems and architect emerging technology and capability solutions. * Be recognised as an international authority in their area of AI and typically possess knowledge across a range of disciplines.   **Stakeholder Management**   * Proven leadership ability with excellent interpersonal skills and technical knowledge. * Communicate effectively and respectfully with all staff, clients and suppliers in the interests of good business practice, collaboration and enhancement of CSIRO’s reputation. * Strong, market facing leader with charisma and proven business development capabilities. She/he must establish/expand relationships with prospective industry bodies, as well as identify and develop relationships with future partners. * Ability to interact effectively with all levels of the organisation. * Deep experience of collaborating with and managing senior stakeholders to build lasting relationships and deliver mutually beneficial outcomes.   **Strategic Leadership**   * Significant experience in leadership roles and previous accountability for developing, influencing and executing strategic plans and/or project portfolios or an equivalent combination of education and experience.   **Special requirements:**   * A National Police Check is required to be lodged by the successful applicant and clearance to be received before commencing. * The successful candidate will be required to obtain and maintain a security clearance at base line. |

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| **Other Information:** |
| **Contact**  For further information about this role contact Heidrick & Struggles at data61@heidrick.com  **How to Apply**  Please send your application directly to Heidrick & Struggles at [data61@heidrick.com](mailto:data61@heidrick.com)  In your application you will need provide your CV and a cover letter outlining your motivation and relevant capabilities and experience you could bring to this role.  **Flexible Working Arrangements**  We work flexibly at CSIRO, offering a range of options for how, when and where you work. Talk to  us about how this role could be flexible for you. [Work life balance](https://www.csiro.au/en/Careers/The-CSIRO-Experience/Balance).  **Diversity and Inclusion**  We are working hard to recruit diverse people and ensure that all our people feel supported to do  their best work and feel empowered to let their ideas flourish. [Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](https://www.csiro.au/en/About/Policies-guidelines/Working-at-CSIRO/Diversity-strategy).  We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.  **About CSIRO**  At CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, we solve the greatest challenges through innovative  science and technology. Find out more! [www.csiro.au.](http://www.csiro.au/)    CSIRO's Data61 is the data and digital specialist arm of CSIRO. We are creating Australia's data-driven  future.  [Join us and start creating tomorrow today](https://www.csiro.au/en/Do-business/RandD/Do-business-Data61)! |