

# "Garner tangible results..."

## Bio-economy Career Profile

**Position:** Vice-President of Projects

**Name:** David Kratochvil

**Company:** BioteQ Environmental Technologies Inc.

**Salary Range:** \$120,000 and up per year



## What I do:

My role is to find, manage, and motivate personnel, so that BioteQ's projects are successfully executed on time and on budget. The company specializes in financing, designing, and operating wastewater treatment systems for companies in the areas of mining, smelting, and refining. BioteQ generates its revenue from operating the plants and sales from the recovered resources.

My duties include overseeing almost every aspect of the company, except for business development and marketing. I have to be very project-oriented in this position. Project managers report to me on the engineering and construction of ongoing projects, as do the managers of operations and engineering.

When I worked as a project manager, travel used to be about 50 per cent of my time. Currently, I travel about 10 to 20 per cent of the time, because we have projects in Chile, China, Canada, Australia, and the US. When I travel, I visit our operation sites and meet with clients to negotiate and set performance targets.

## What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

I have a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering, which lends itself well to the technical aspects of the work that BioteQ does.

When you are in charge of projects, it is important for you to be technically sound. However, I would caution people that my position is as much about people management and communication as it is about the technical aspects of a development project. People skills are essential to ensure the success of a project and the ultimate success of the company. The ability to prioritize is also important.

Character traits that lend themselves well to my position include the ability to motivate people, and being a self-starter and manager. Time management is also essential, as several projects can happen at once. You also need to be able to deal with ambiguity on the part of clients and personnel. You must rely on your experience to move projects forward.

## What are the best parts of your job?

There are two things that I find great about my job. First, I feel that I make a difference to the company and its bottom line. My decision can garner tangible results that reflect directly on the success or failure of the company. Second, I really enjoy seeing our staff develop into professionals.