

## Banking and Innovation Senior Manager

Arise is a leading, African investment company backed by reputable cornerstone investors, namely Norfund, NorFinance, FMO and Rabobank. Arise has the ambition to become the leading and most trusted investment and development partner for financial service providers in Sub-Saharan Africa. By actively investing in and contributing towards the development of the investees, Arise aims to have a positive impact in Africa and at the same time achieve long term market returns.

Arise' mission is to contribute to the economic growth of Sub-Saharan Africa and the prosperity of its people by increasing financial inclusion and employment, strengthening rural development and alleviating poverty. This is achieved through Arise' direct investment in financial service investees, and more so, through its pursuit of contributing tangible value for its investees, achieved through the Arise value creation strategy.

### Job Purpose:

To further its value creation impact, Arise is seeking to bolster the value creation team capacity and expertise through the appointment of a Senior Manager – Banking & Innovation, taking responsibility in a strategic advisory capacity aimed at driving improvements in the strategic, commercial, technology and operational areas within the Investee Bank/s, working in close cooperation Value Creation team members and with the Investment Team.

The Senior Manager – Banking & Innovation will be based in Cape Town, reporting to the Head – Banking Development.

### Key Responsibilities/Accountabilities:

- Provide *strategic* advisory guidance to Investee Bank EXCO's and Boards in positioning leading and innovative banking solutions for Investee banks, with the aim of increasing retail market share, driving improvements in the Investee banks' IRR (internal rate of return), and delivering against the Arise mandate of promoting financial inclusion, M/SME growth, rural development, etc.
- Working collaboratively with Investee Bank Management, develop a keen understanding of the Investee Banks' 'pain points', advising on both operational and technological solutions to overcome.
- promoting the introduction of new/emerging technologies within the Investee Banks, leveraging same to drive automation, flexibility, cost efficiency, stability, and product innovation.
- Similarly, leverage business knowledge, and understanding of emerging Fintech solutions/technologies to enable the Investee Bank to gain a significant competitive advantage within its market through the adoption of certain Fintech capabilities.

**Arise Pty (Ltd)**  
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7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Apex Building, 1 Energy Lane,  
Bridgeways Precinct, Century City  
Cape Town, 7441, South Africa

[www.ariseinvest.com](http://www.ariseinvest.com)

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- In collaboration with Investee Bank Management and Investment Team, develop annual workplans across the Arise network, aimed at supporting each banks' strategic intent, and by inference, improving the Investee Banks' position in its respective marketplace.
- Foster collaboration between Investee Banks on common banking product and technology interests, through facilitation of collaborative workshops, roundtables, and webinars on topics of common interest amongst some/all Investee Banks.
- Provide guidance and support to Investee Banks, as required, in discussions with leading financial services technology service vendors (VISA, Oracle, Temenos, Infosys, etc.) with the intent of ensuring each Investee Bank is seen as one of a collective of banks within the Arise Investee network, driving commercially beneficial contracting, licensing, and vendor responsiveness.
- Provide strategic guidance to Investees pertaining to best practice technology risk management (in particular cyber risk), reporting, and service management.
- As required, provide Fintech and 'non-bank financial institute' (NBFI) Investee's support in exploring the use of innovative and cost-effective solutions that can be scaled up to accommodate growing demands, driving commercial gain for both the Investee and Arise.
- As an anchor team member of the Fintech Investment portfolio, provide expertise and guidance to the Investment team in the evaluation of proposed Fintech investment opportunities.
- Support the Value Creation team in the compilation of the Arise quarterly reports, ad-hoc reports, including reviewing investees' Board packs for salient concerns/challenges which may inform the need for Arise value creation support.

## Qualifications/Work Experience

- 10-20 years plus experience gained financial institutions in areas mentioned above, either within the banking industry, or of implementing solutions for financial institutions from within a top four consultancy firm, with a demonstrable expertise in two or more banking functional areas.
- Honours degree or equivalent relevant to the financial services industry.
- Strong technical competencies in areas of banking, including product, channel, operations, technology systems, and innovation, with the ability to translate the **'technical'** to business language.
- A keen understanding, and business application thereof, of emerging and new Fintech solutions and technologies where same can materially improve the performance of the bank.
- A sound understanding of cyber risk, leading cyber security technology,
- Possess a wide network of relevant industry contacts, including subject matter experts across the fields noted above, vendors contacts, which the incumbent can call on as and when required.
- Ability to apply sound business judgment and an analytical, pragmatic, and creative approach to problem solving.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the gravitas to hold ones' own at the Boardroom table.
- Advance proficiency in the use of MS Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc.

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- Ability to plan/prioritize complex programmes of work, deliver against deadlines, preferably with a keen understanding of the likes of Agile methodologies.
- Travel in Africa and occasionally Europe is a key requirement for all Arise staff; the incumbent must hold a valid passport at all times and be willing to travel as necessary in support of the objectives of Arise.
- Deep ITC technical knowledge combined with a sound financial services knowledge to support strong strategic growth within the organisations we invest

### Personal Attributes

- Intrinsically motivated by the mission of Arise.
- Must be a team player.
- Able to interact across cultures and organisation levels.
- Intrinsically motivated to expand one's knowledge across the various value creation pillars of Arise, through self-research, working closely with peer team members, investee stakeholders, and Arise shareholder stakeholders.
- Energetic, forward thinking, pragmatic, and positive mind-set towards creating/adding value within Arise investees.
- Ability to plan ones' time and tasks at hand, and prioritise effectively, and comfortable to work without direct leadership at times, at times in an unstructured manner.
- Excellent communication skills, verbal and written with keen attention to detail.
- Negotiation skills and ability to influence and possess the gravitas to be heard at the boardroom table.
- Ability to cope under pressure.
- Follow-through; the motivation to ensure the highest standards of quality and productivity are consistently maintained.
- Preference will be given to female and diversity candidates

### Remuneration

- The remuneration package includes salary, pension, medical benefit contribution, insurance cover, and a reasonable performance related bonus.

Please address applications to the Head of Human Resources at [catherine.cowling@ariseinvest.com](mailto:catherine.cowling@ariseinvest.com), before 31 March 2022.

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