JOB TITLE	AI Solutions Specialist – Manufacturing
COMPANY	Universal Paper and Plastics
DEPARTMENT	AI and Systems

PURPOSE OF THIS POSITION

To lead the integration and deployment of Artificial Intelligence solutions into manufacturing operations to improve efficiency, quality, predictive capabilities, and decision-making. This role requires deep hands-on experience in AI applications for industrial settings, bridging the gap between technology and production outcomes.

JOB TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES

AI Deployment and Integration
- Identify opportunities where AI can optimise manufacturing processes, reduce downtime, improve yield, and enhance product quality.
- Lead end-to-end implementation of AI models, from data preparation to deployment and monitoring.
- Integrate AI tools into existing ERP, MES, and production control systems.
- Develop predictive maintenance and quality control AI solutions.

Systems Operations and Data Strategy
- Collaborate with production, quality, and maintenance teams to ensure AI solutions are aligned with operational needs.
- Ensure robust data pipelines are in place for real-time AI analytics.
- Maintain system uptime and performance for AI applications.

Reporting and Insights
- Develop real-time dashboards using AI-driven analytics.
- Present AI project ROI and performance metrics to directors.
- Identify and communicate trends, anomalies, and opportunities for improvement.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED

1. Proven experience deploying AI/ML solutions in manufacturing or industrial environments.
2. Strong skills in Python, SQL, BI tools, and cloud AI services (Azure AI, AWS SageMaker, or similar).
3. Understanding of industrial IoT, process automation, and predictive analytics.
4. Ability to manage multiple projects and stakeholders
5. Reviewing and managing the turnaround time.
6. Willingness to work overtime as and when required.
7. The ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	APPLICATION
1. Bachelor's degree in Data Science, Computer Science, AI, or related field.	- Submit your CV to Shamiek Narrandes via email at snarrandes@upap.co.za - **Proof of qualifications must accompany the application.**