Field Strategist: Atlas Computing

Location: Remote

Travel: likely ~20% travel

Salary range: \$140-200k/yr + benefits

Key Summary

Advancements in AI bring both opportunities and serious risks. Atlas Computing is a nonprofit working on creating new organizations to secure society against the most severe risks it may face as AI becomes more capable. We're not trying to be a think tank or an incubator; we think creating new organizations can solve many important, neglected problems. We start from the opportunity or risk, map the context in which the need for a new organization arises, identify stakeholders, draft milestones, source early funders, and recruit a career professional to take ownership over each problem (we believe most of these orgs don't require the brilliant, risk-seeking, young generalists who are courted by VCs).

Atlas Computing is looking for a cohort of Field Strategists to join us in scoping and building these new organizations.

As a Field Strategist, success in the first 6 months looks like:

- The hire has created two or more clear write-ups describing:
 - Why society needs a particular new org (i.e. what does it do)
 - Who would likely fund it
 - (and what their decision criteria would be)
 - Who are the best people in the world to advise and steer it
 - (and warm intros to those people)
 - Who are its users/customers
 - (and has spoken with them)
 - What skills and network does the founder need (and where are we likely to find that person)
- The hire has worked with a recruiter to pitch potential founders for that organization and has introduced one to potential funders.
- A more junior hire would:
 - o focus on 1-2 organizations at a time
 - benefit from checking in with Evan (Atlas CEO) multiple times per week
- A more senior hire would:
 - develop 3-5 organizations simultaneously and on ~2-4 month timescales
 - benefit from the freedom of little oversight
 - be "fire and forget", sharing weekly updates as needed to highlight potential opportunities
 - (perhaps) provide mentorship to junior hires

You may be a fit for this role if you have...

- expertise navigating and/or modifying complex systems (natural or human-made),
 - This could look like complex systems research in academia, policy research at a think tank, market research in a product role, or analyst research in the intelligence community
- generalist: able to quickly understand nuances in a variety of topics, including ML architecture, export control laws, and ideological differences within the AI community

At Atlas, we also expect everyone to have...

- a practice of reviewing the state-of-the-art after having an idea, coupled with an urge to prototype, test, and iterate
- a founder mindset, with a high degree of ownership over outcomes (not process) and the ability to personally make and externally drive progress with little oversight.
- experience coordinating and aligning stakeholders to work toward a common goal
- strong analytical, problem solving, and communication skills
- comfort with uncertainty and interest in shaping our culture, as we're still a very small organization

Bonus points if you...

- strongly hold a conviction that AI is going to reshape the face of civilization fairly soon and you want to join a hard-working team focused on making that go as well as possible.
- thrive in a high-trust, low-structure environment.
- love talking to people across multiple domains about concrete actions that can address important problems.
- know how to solve problems with money, but also know how to operate on a tight budget.
- seriously considered starting your own company, but the opportunity or push hasn't come up yet.
- find yourself always recommending books.
- are deeply committed to improving the human condition with technology...
 - o and understanding how different people might differently define "improving", "human", "condition", and "technology" in that sentence.

Here's a supplemental living document if you have more questions: More information for potential hires

Our recent blog posts also contain helpful context: https://blog.atlascomputing.org/