Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to apply for the Automation Engineer position within Sopra Steria's Aerospace, Defence, and Security division. With recent hands-on experience designing and running automation pipelines, managing infrastructure from the ground up, and a strong drive to develop in a professional environment where quality and security are paramount, I believe I can make a meaningful contribution to your team.

In my current role, I have acted as the sole data and infrastructure engineer for an SME, consolidating fragmented processes into a unified, automated system. I provisioned and administer a dedicated Debian 12 bare-metal server, deploying and orchestrating containerised workloads with Docker Compose. On top of this, I designed a multi-layer ETL stack using PostgreSQL, with automated validation and transformation pipelines written in Python and packaged as reusable modules in GitHub. I built containerised testing with pytest to enforce reliability, and I reduced a weekly two-hour manual process to a fully automated daily pipeline — a clear impact on efficiency and resilience.

What drives me, however, is not only solving technical problems but doing so with rigour and care. I take pride in reliable systems, reproducible builds, and clean deployments. Outside of work I am already exploring NixOS for deterministic builds and preparing to introduce GitHub Actions and Ansible into my toolset, alongside stronger approaches to secrets management. I also make a point of collaborating directly with stakeholders and end users to ensure that solutions deliver tangible value, not just technical elegance.

I am particularly drawn to Sopra Steria because of the mission: supporting national security with robust, high-stakes systems. After experiencing environments where cutting corners is the norm, I want to contribute to an organisation where quality, dependability, and purpose are taken seriously. The opportunity to grow my automation and infrastructure skills in a setting that combines technical challenge with societal impact is exactly the step I am seeking.

I would welcome the chance to discuss how my background in automation, infrastructure, and DevOps can support Sopra Steria's goals. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to your work in this critical sector.

Yours sincerely,
Frey Lyons