

RESUME

James T. Wilkinson
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Summary:

30 years as an accomplished mechanical, electrical, manufacturing and quality engineer is looking for a long term, challenging position. A self-starting creative professional who uses Solidworks, Electronics Workbench, machining & fabrication, MS Project, ISO 9000 and other tools in an effective and organized approach to process improvements, continuous improvement, and designs.

Work history:

Consulting Electromechanical & Process Engineer

1990 to Present

Consulting Electromechanical Engineer to develop and lead multidisciplinary teams to establish manufacturing, solve manufacturing issues, improve manufacturing and test processes, and develop new products and advanced technology prototypes. Engineer, direct, and coordinate efforts of multidisciplinary teams using various computer design packages and rapid prototyping processes, such as stereo lithography, to develop advanced electrical control and feature concepts for automotive interiors. Client companies include **BD Medical, Sandhill Scientific, Intelagard, Signature Controls, Johnson Controls, Inc. , Gibraltar Steel, Sine Products, Brilliance Corporation, AIS Container, Genzink Steel, Russel Technical Products, Koeze Nut, The Etheridge Company, Hilco Plastics, and Vision, Inc.**

Quality Systems Consulting to assist companies with Industrial problem solving, defining their quality systems, writing quality manuals and procedures, ISO-9000 registration.

This time included 5 years full time, in-house at Johnson Controls Automotive.

Recent projects to design and build working prototypes include:

- Heads Up Safety – 2 safety flag mechanism designs, one with an automatic flashing strobe.
- Drink n Dream – Vibrating baby bottle with Mp3 player
- Boat Slicker – support structure and tarp for sport boats
- Heavenly Hands and Feet – Padded socks and gloves with essential oils

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- Tow Backer – towed vehicle drive mechanism and electronics to enable backing a towed vehicle with a tow bar.
- Chameleon Entertainment – Casino entertainment system
- Angle Farms – Colonics cleansing system equipment
- Throat Zapper – Miniature laser and UV light therapy device
- Personal Oasis – person water bottle for athletes.
- Took 11 International Design awards at INPEX (National Inventions show) for Heads Up Safety, Drink n Dream, and Personal Oasis.

Intelgard, Inc.
Project Engineer
2004 to 2005

Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing design of portable, self powered decontamination systems. Managed a team of 4 engineers during the mid-phase of the project. During the final phase of the development, my focus was primarily on the electrical system development. This project resulted in one patent application and another patent disclosure in process.

Cellport Systems, Inc.
Technical Services Manager
2001 to 2002

Established technical support, and nationwide technical training, certification, and service facility authorization, customer and field data reporting and quality improvement efforts.

Principal Manufacturing Engineer
2000 to 2001

Managed injection mold tool design and development, integrated design for manufacturability, designed and established assembly procedures. Also established manufacturing for the CP2100 and pilot manufacturing for the CP3000.

Project Mechanical Design Manager (contract)
1999 to 2000

Coordinated engineering efforts between outside design and internal engineering resources to develop a new product resulting in patent # 6,341,218.

Note: I moved to laterally in position as the company grew from 8 to 94 employees to positions that were needed the help the most.

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Harding Think Tank, Inc.

Chief Engineer

1988 to 1990

Managed operation of the company through initial formation and development stages. The company was involved with applied research and development of new products and technologies. My duties included design of and management of design, and manufacture of solar electric power systems, custom electronic controls, contract research, contract engineering and general company management. Harding Think Tank became Harding Battery Company in Muskegon Michigan.

Published 2 papers with the Motion Control Technologies Association on design for battery power and battery technologies.

Rowe International Inc.

Quality/Reliability Engineer and Manager

1980 to 1988

Work with product and industrial engineering to co-develop support processes and equipment for new product. Provide direct design input on new product design and product improvements. Directed Test Equipment lab with new product test development plans, equipment design and construction. Managed over 50 people in the inspection department while performing duties of a Quality and Reliability Engineer. Areas of QA responsibility included metal fabrication, plastic injection molding and vacuum forming, plating, and painting operations. Led team to establish Compact Bill Acceptor manufacturing line, and team member to establish manufacturing lines of new product on a continual basis.

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Summary of Accomplishments:

Project Management

Team building, development management, product transition, strategic planning, continuous improvement.

Led team as primary engineer to develop a new style decontamination system for the military and launched pilot production of test systems. The project resulted in a patent application and patent disclosure. Commercial success is still pending.

Facilitated development of laser cutting stainless steel rings to replace automated mechanical cutter. Resulted in lower costs, more repeatable parts, and more reliable process.

Led a development team for the launch a new style hands free system for portable phones in cars. These systems were factory installed into Ford fleet vehicles. The design yielded a US and a European patent.

Led international team to redesign the automotive map lamp switch that resulted in a \$.23 per switch cost reduction resulting in several million dollars per year savings and reducing failures from over 200 ppm to less than 50 ppm at last report.

Guided 7 different companies to successful ISO-9000 implementation with net results of significant reduction in paperwork, improved processes, and improved product quality.

Headed electronic portion of a project to develop an "integrated cockpit system" for vehicles. Project resulted in 80% elimination for the instrument panel wire harness, 40% reduction in the electronic costs, and 35% reduction in the electronics mass as compared to the baseline Instrument Panel that this was designed to replace (conceptually). Further work continues developing the ideas into new vehicle platforms. Several patents applied for.

Developed specifications and coordinated efforts between companies in France, Japan, and Korea to produce an improved map lamp switch with higher reliability, lower cost, and to correct recurring manufacturing problems. New switches are now in production, all goals met, and 40% reduction in cost (approximately \$800,000 annual savings).

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Mechanical Design Engineer:

Design of plastics (pressure form, thermal form, rotary mold, and injection mold), sheet metal, machined parts, and assemblies.

Electrical design for control systems, test equipment for production assemblies, circuit boards, and automated processing equipment.

Designed and built a successful prototype of a new style Casino Gambling Machine in less than sixty days.

Co-authored a national standard to document and define electrical, physical, and operational parameters of the portable phone interface to OEM automotive electrical system. Coordinated efforts between competitors, connector suppliers, and portable phone manufacturers to complete, publish and implement the standard. (PN-4205, PN-4207)

Published and presented two papers to the Motion Control Technology Association: "Rechargeable Battery Technology" and "Logic of Low Power Design".

Manufacturing Engineering:

Worked to solve welding problems with robotically welded hinges and structural steel reducing costs and improving quality.

Quality engineering to include: problem solving, Quality Management Systems, process/product improvement, auditing, improved customer satisfaction, and cost reduction.

Developed a tester interconnect for automotive overhead consoles that saved \$175,000 in maintenance costs the first year on the first station, then once propagated saved \$3-4 million in maintenance costs per year.

Designed and build a tester for automotive overhead systems that not only replaced Allen Bradley controllers as a tester at significant cost savings but became a useful diagnostics tool that increased overhead system productivity. At my last knowledge, these are now used on every overhead system assembly station for Johnson Controls Automotive.

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Created numerous assembly processes and documented the processes with illustrated work instructions and workmanship/quality criteria.

Solved a metallurgy problem with insert molded parts and twist lock lamps which was a major quality problem threatening sever overhead console programs.

Pioneered flexible circuit applications within the automotive environment for interior trim electronic integration. Outcomes included significant cost and weight reductions coupled with reliability and manufacturability improvements for selected interior zones. Other outcomes include authorship of a Flexible Circuit Design Manual used by engineers to design systems and adopted by the Flexible Circuit Manufacturer. I also received 2 patents related to Flexible Circuits designs and applications.

Published the "Generic Quality Manual" with software and sold very successfully worldwide. Referenced in McGraw Hill's "Quality Manager's Guide to ISO-9000" by Rick Clements.

Industries served:

Medical

General manufacture of plastics, electronics, electromechanical assemblies.

Automotive interiors and electronic integration

Plastics fabrication to include: thermal forming, injection molding, insert molding, and assemblies.

Aerospace on a limited basis.

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EDUCATION:

Western Michigan University
Masters Engineering Management
(in process but currently on hold)

Grand Valley State University
B.S. Industrial Technology

University of Connecticut
Quality Management Institute
Dorian Shanin – main instructor

Grand Rapids Junior College
Associates of Applied Science

A full list of all training is available on request. A partial list includes:

- Statistical Problem Solving
- Geometric Tolerancing and Dimensioning
- Labor Law
- Process Documentation
- Many ISO 9000 courses
- Calculus, Physics, Chemistry

American Society for Quality Senior Member (#84368) & former section chair for Boulder
Certified Quality Engineer since 12/6/1986 (#15088)
ISO 9000 Lead Auditor (SAM# L-1910)
Vice Chair ASQ section 1313 (Boulder) 2002-2003
Rocky Mountain Quality Conference Chair 2005

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Patents:

20070252359	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR BACK UP CONTROL OF A TOWED VEHICLE
06748877.5-1968 6,341,218	Compressed Air Foam and High Pressure Liquid Dispersal System
00982526.6-2412	Supporting and connecting a portable phone
98302054.6-2214	Supporting and connecting a portable phone
00304022.7-2312 6,657,316	Electrical Ribbon wire connectors
6,000,951	Window Control Apparatus
98965042.9-2306	Window Control Apparatus
6,073,987	Flex Circuit Interconnect
	Integrated Modular Instrument Panel
	Integrated Modular Instrument Panel

Several other patent disclosures in process and filed. Details available on request.

Free Time Activities:

Camping, Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing, Bicycling, Hunting, Fishing
Former Scoutmaster (9 years) and Eagle Scout
Ham Radio operator and experimenter (37 years)