



Helping you overcome engineering challenges – on budget, on time.

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Product Engineering Leader

Product Design • Program Management • Quality Engineering

- ☒ Product Development: Seasoned design engineer who has developed 50+ automotive and marine mechanical systems. End-to-end experience managing the full product development lifecycle, including concept, design, prototyping, validation testing, materials, tooling, production, and continuous improvement.
 - ☒ Project Management: Process-focused project manager who can orchestrate timing, cost, and resources with a consistent record of on-time delivery. Led seven multidisciplinary teams in new vehicle launches.
 - ☒ Manufacturing & Quality: QS-9000 External Auditor and GM Six Sigma Black Belt who has resolved quality issues for 11 major GM vehicle launches. APQP engineering and supplier quality experience. Developed sustainable quality system that reduced warranty defects by 112 DPTV and JD Power issues by 43 PPH.
 - ☒ Technical Problem Solving: Master Certified to employ and teach Red X methodology.
 - ☒ Resource Management & Team Leadership: Proven leader with experience as direct line supervisor *and* a matrixed team leader. Able to build and engage teams to focus on a common goal.
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bridgestone/Firestone • Nashville, Tennessee

Systematic Technical Problem-Solving Engineering Manager

8/2019—9/2021

- Train Engineers in Systematic Technical Problem Solving
- Design, develop automotive air springs.
- Technical problem-solving lead.

GENERAL MOTORS • Warren, Michigan

A \$148B Fortune 10 global automotive manufacturer.

OEM Accessories Senior Design Release Engineer

4/2017—8/2019

Lead mechanical systems design, ADVP&R planning, and project management for pickup bed cover systems – a program with a high contribution margin. Accountable for all stages and aspects of the product development lifecycle – including conception, cost, aesthetics, design, timing, validation, tooling, full production, marketing, and continuous improvement. Team leader for cross-functional, matrixed teams. Manage design and tooling budget.

- Led the PPAP, release, and launch of three pickup bed cover systems.
- Conceptualized and developed an innovative cargo caddy system using a simplified design to minimize material costs (U.S. patent # 10,427,615).

Senior Designer – GM Technical Center

2014—2017

Led the mechanical product design of door sub-systems and components. Performed 3D modeling using NX-9 CAD.

- Innovated a Thatham cover that saved assembly time by an estimated 1,333 labor hours annually.
- Integrated lock, latch and release systems into the door for a new vehicle – enabling use of carryover cables and avoiding \$50K in new tooling expense.
- Designed a latch actuation rod with fewer offsets, saving an estimated \$8K annually.

EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

GENERAL MOTORS • Spring Hill, Tennessee

PPAP Quality Engineer 2012—2014

Managed all 18 elements of PPAP during APQP phase for machining engine blocks, heads, and cranks.

Customer Interface Quality Engineer 2009—2012

Coordinated root cause, interim corrective actions and closure for quality complaints from internal GM assembly plants and external Tier 1 customers.

- **Challenge:** There were no quality systems in place and no way to measure quality. **Action:** Established *new, sustainable* quality systems using QS9000 and APQP principles. **Result:** Metrics to track/improve quality.

Supplier Quality Engineer 2006—2009

Managed suppliers and part quality using GM Corporate processes and tools, such as PRRs, Master Dot reviews and the APQP process.

SATURN/GM • Spring Hill, Tennessee

A GM subsidiary that ceased operations in 2010.

Vehicle Project Engineer 1998—2006

Led the Voice of the Customer (VOC) team for exterior systems issues on six vehicle models. Compiled and analyzed JD Power and warranty data, defined issues, performed root cause analysis, and led team of design and quality engineers to create solutions.

Played key role in production launch of 10 major vehicles across multiple architectures launches at five GM manufacturing facilities.

- Led multidisciplinary teams to resolve complex, critical issues with sheet metal, mechanisms/hardware, interior trim, weather-strips and HVAC. See full description at www.marktraxler.com/manuf-quality-materials.
- Door system high-risk issue champion for major vehicle program.
- Appointed lead engineer for vehicle exterior systems team that significantly reduced warranty, part cost, ergonomic issues, and improved plant throughput using continuous design improvements.
- Lead engineer for transition from Saturn engineering systems to GM engineering systems.

EARLY CAREER

Sr. Project Release Engineer—Saturn • Spring Hill, Tennessee

- Managed resourcing project for major vehicle subsystem, on time and within budget. Reduced product cost by 10% and warranty costs 30%. Increased product quality (JD Power) by 50%.
- Chaired development team meetings during vehicle weather-strip launch.

Senior Design/Release Engineer—Saturn • Troy Michigan

- Led a window regulator design from concept through production.

Product Engineering Team Leader—Eaton Marine Hydraulics • Lansing, Michigan

EDUCATION

MBA – Jones International University • Centennial, Colorado

BSME, Mechanical Engineering – Michigan State University • Lansing, Michigan

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Certified Manager of Quality & Organization Excellence, American Society for Quality (ASQ)
Red X Master Certified Statistical Engineer – A three-year, structured technical problem solving program
Designing Engineer Certification, GM – A two-year program. Trained in Unigraphics and solid modeling
Six Sigma Black Belt, GM

Comprehensive list of training at www.marktraxler.com/education/

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
Microsoft Project: Proficient with resource planning tools and Gantt/PERT charts.
NX-9 CAD system (proficient), Catia, AutoCAD

MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY

Vanderbilt University Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Board
American Society for Quality
Engineers without Borders

PATENTS

Transmission PRNDL shift lever assembly, U.S. patent # 5,577,418
Self-aligning bearing, U.S. patent # 4,986,675
Cargo Caddy System, U.S. patent # 10,427,615

AWARDS

Door Systems Technical Launch Champion
Recognized as a GM “Exceptional Performer” within Product Engineering