

ANDI ZHOU

1929 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
andi.zhou1324@gmail.com
(734)-881-4192

Dear Ms. Catherine Corban and the Rocket Lab Hiring Team,

I imagine you might find a few aspects of my resume intriguing: an aerospace background but an automotive career, and why a Canadian citizen is applying for a job on the other side of the world?

Growing up, my dream was always to be a rocket scientist. Chasing that dream had led me from Canada to the U.S., where I immersed myself in aerospace education, eventually becoming one of the project leads for the university rocketry team, MASA. However, the barriers posed by ITAR regulations restricted me, even as a Canadian, from venturing into the U.S aerospace sector. This forced me down the automotive path, and while I've had the privilege to intern at renowned firms such as Volvo and Zoxx, every night, I find myself asking the same question: is automotive really what I want to do?

And here I am three internships later, really excited as I send out my application as the Structural and Mechanical Test Engineer in Rocket Lab New Zealand. I am convinced that the rigorous, fast-paced, testing acumen I developed in the automotive realm will serve as a valuable asset as a structural and mechanical testing engineer.

My internships at companies like Zoxx Inc., and my role as the Rocket Fin Lead at MASA were examples where my passion for testing manifested itself in tangible results. At Zoxx, I took charge of a cooling system flow test rig that had been stagnating for 2 years and completed it within 9 weeks; through a combination of hands-on plumbing/manufacturing, electrical harness assembly and testing automation. My internship ended with my manager highlighting that I had generated more data in those 9 weeks than the project had in the previous 2 years.

As a Rocket Fin Lead, I led a team of 12 in designing and structurally testing the largest, hypersonic capable fin that the team has ever built. We validated our design with FEA simulations and obtained an error margin under 20%.

Even without ITAR restriction, Rocket Lab would remain my top choice for an aerospace company to join. Although SpaceX has dominated headlines with its impressive Falcon 9 landings and the notable achievements of Starship, the small satellite industry's potential often go overlooked. Given the rapid commercialization of the space industry in recent years, it's evident that small satellites are poised to capture a dominant market in the near future. Rocket Lab's dedication to the small sat sector aligns perfectly with my beliefs and aspirations, and I am eager to be a part of this journey.

Thank you and Ad Astra!

Andi Zhou