

Dayna Kivell

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*Meet the person
behind the CV*

I lead with purpose, whether it's driving cutting-edge technological innovation or creating a supportive, inclusive work environment. With a passion for exploring emerging technologies and harnessing their potential, I thrive on solving complex challenges and delivering impactful solutions. I'm equally committed to fostering diversity and supporting mental well-being in the workplace, creating environments where teams can grow and thrive. I'm seeking a role where I can combine my technical expertise, strategic insights, and passion for innovation to contribute to a company that values sustainability, positive impact, and forward-thinking solutions.

Key Skills

- Technology Strategy Development
- Team Leadership: Growing Teams and Employing the Right Talent
- Project Management
- Scaling from Prototype to Production Ready
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Mentoring and Coaching
- Customer-Centric Approach
- Continuous Improvement Mindset
- Cross-Functional Team Management and Collaboration (Software, Hardware and End User)

Work Experience

Q-Bot Ltd

October 2013 – Present, London

Q-Bot, founded in 2012, provides innovative robotic underfloor insulation solutions for social housing providers and homeowners. I joined Q-Bot in 2013 and progressed into a leadership role, reporting to the CTO and previously the CEO. Over the years, I played an essential role in scaling the company from a six-person start-up to a service provider (Robots-as-a-Service), with over 5,000 installations across the UK and a small number in the EU.

Head of Robot Operations (Q-Bot Ltd)

February 2024 – Present

- Oversee the operation of 50 robots across partners in the UK and Europe, ensuring optimal functionality.
- Lead a team providing remote troubleshooting and on-site repairs to maintain operational efficiency.
- Manage logistics for robot exchanges and repairs.
- Cultivate and manage relationships with partner organisations.
- Drive business development initiatives to expand international partnerships.
- Develop and refine training programs based on user feedback from installers.
- Empower engineering teams with strategic insights to drive impactful product advancement.

Head of Robots (Q-Bot Ltd)

January 2020 – February 2024

- Oversaw design, development, production, and maintenance of the company's robots, ensuring they met customer requirements, performance standards, and specifications.
- Led the team by creating project plans, setting goals, and tracking performance.
- Achievements included leading the company's first external batch production of robots in collaboration with a third-party manufacturer, transitioning from in-house prototypes to production-ready units.
- Championed robot fault analysis, reducing faults by 48% through improved training and decreasing catastrophic faults by 19% with a sealing retrofit. Helped to develop the 'Robot Guru' program to upskill teams, addressing the remaining 33% of faults.
- Helped to successfully deliver grant-funded projects.
- Joined the senior management team, contributing to board-level decision-making through comprehensive reports and strategic plans that align with organisational goals and drive growth.

Robot Manager (Q-Bot Ltd)

October 2016 – January 2020

- Took on my first people management role, successfully welcoming and mentoring new team members to support their growth and seamless integration. Led recruitment of software, electronics, and mechanical engineers, while championing internal promotions to build a strong, dynamic team.
- Managed subassembly testing and full robot batch builds, ensuring all units met customer specifications and quality standards.
- Authored operating manuals, technical documentation, build and assembly instructions, as well as testing procedures, maintenance guides, and system specifications.
- Managed Health and Safety protocols, from PAT testing and risk assessments to fire alarm tests and emergency lighting, in partnership with external advisors.
- Represented the company as its public face, leading investor demonstrations and featuring on the website in promotional videos.

Mechatronics Design Engineer (Q-Bot Ltd)

October 2013 – October 2016

- Developed full system electronics and firmware for six robot prototypes, handling design, wiring, testing, and meeting UK grant specifications as the sole electronics engineer.
- Designed, installed, and tested data logging units in homes to gather pre- and post-installation data for underfloor insulation (from our designed robots). Conducted case studies and data analysis to validate product effectiveness- Management of the assigned work packages and tasks.
- Conducted onsite surveys and testing to gather real-world feedback, ensuring products met specifications and informed improvements.

Education

ME (Distinction, awarded Scholarship): Electronics & Computer Systems (2012), Victoria University, Wellington, NZ

BE (1st Class Hons): Electronics & Computer Systems (2010), Victoria University, Wellington, NZ

Additional Skills

Cloud Platforms & DevOps: Amazon QuickSight, AWS, Azure DevOps

Collaboration & Documentation Tools: SharePoint, Trello, Miro, Confluence

Search & Analytics Tools: Elastic

Operating Systems: Microsoft Windows, Ubuntu/Linux

Robotics & Automation: ROS, Arduino

Embedded Systems & Hardware Development: Altium Designer, SolidWorks, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, NVIDIA Jetson, Intel NUC, MATLAB

Programming Languages: Python, C++, Ladder Logic

Assembly, Prototyping & Modification: Soldering, wiring, debugging, hardware/software testing, 3D Printers, Laser Cutters

Media, Outreach, & Achievements

- Speaker at Field Service Europe (2024): Building a Culture of Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing for Front-Line Field Service Employees.
- Facilitated work experience opportunities for students ranging from secondary school to university level.
- Delivered presentations at student assemblies, promoting STEM education and career opportunities in the field.
- BBC Click COP26 Special (2021): Featured interviewee and live (in-studio) demonstration of spraying insulation with robot in a mock underfloor environment’.
- Ashden Award Winners Q-Bot (2018): Featured interviewee in the winning video for the Asden Awards.
- Member of Te Rōpū Āwhina: mentoring Māori and Pacific Islanders students, (March 2011 – October 2012)

Off-the-Clock Adventures

- Goalkeeper for the Tooting Bec Reserves 11 aside women’s football team going into my 4th season.
- Diving into the world of music by learning to play the electric drum kit: *Sweet Home Alabama*, my current challenge.
- App Development Side Project (in Flutter): Designing an interactive app to track and check off wildlife sightings inspired by my adventures in Costa Rica.