Ben Halley

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Leidos

I am Ben Halley, a recent graduate of Iowa State University with a BS in Aerospace Engineering and a minor in Leadership. While looking for entry-level aerospace positions on LinkedIn, I found the opportunity to work as a flight controller for Leidos extremely interesting. I love the idea of monitoring the ISS and making sure it remains a safe and productive environment for astronauts. I also enjoy the idea of becoming certified to train astronauts and other flight controllers as my potential career with Leidos progresses. I hope you consider me for the position of Aerospace Engineer!

I am qualified for this position through my education as an Aerospace Engineer and my experiences on various projects. Through my classwork, I achieve the required year of orbital mechanics, aerodynamics, dynamics, and physics experience. These classes have introduced me to the satisfying challenge of calculating trajectories in various environments. I performed very well in school and I feel confident in my abilities to calculate the trajectories of the ISS and what corrective actions, if any, need to be taken.

On top of being successful in school, I also found success on various teams throughout my college career. One such project was a Boeing-sponsored senior design project where my team and I designed a conceptual VTOL vehicle capable of transporting shipping containers from cargo ships to distribution warehouses. My role on the team was to create 3D models of our concept vehicles in various configurations. Through SolidWorks and CFD analysis program Star-CCM+, I was able to provide the team with aesthetically pleasing images of our final vehicle and perform aerodynamic analysis of our vehicle. We used the aerodynamic performance results to influence design decisions through trade studies and value functions. At the end each semester within our project, my team and I got to present our concept to Boeing engineers in a Product Design Review and Concept Design Review. In both cases, my team was judged to have the best presentation out of the two teams.

I also worked on a project called CySat-1. The space industry has always interested me, so I joined this student-led project to create a 3U CubeSat capable of reading the Earth’s soil moisture using a software-defined radio (SDR) based radiometer. My role on this team was Payload Team Lead, and during this project my team and I designed an antenna, RF front end, various circuit boards, and a software program for the radiometer. This project has introduced me to total system integration, government regulations, satellite operations, and working in the space industry as a whole.

This opportunity to work with astronauts, NASA, and Leidos seems like a dream come true, so I hope you consider me for this position! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns regarding my qualifications, and I look forward to next steps! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ben Halley