

Charlie Nitschelm
384 Peverly Hill Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801

April 29th, 2018

Space Exploration Technologies Corp.
Rocket Road
Hawthorne, California

Dear Engineering Team,

Please excuse the informal beginning, but this cover letter does not deserve the common write-up because SpaceX is not a common company. Four months ago, I had no idea what went into designing, manufacturing and testing a rocket. All I knew is that I wanted to. My professional goals changed in mid-July 2016, when the first successful landing of a first stage Falcon 9 happened. I needed to be a part of the team that chooses to rewrite the rulebook on commercial spaceflight. I founded the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS), an organization dedicated to studying the art of rocketry. Since then, we have adhered strictly to our rocket improvement cycle that has allowed us to design, build and test 8 rockets as of today. Not even one of 16 members of UNH SEDS have previously made a rocket before, but we were determined to learn. Through failures, frustration and excitement we have reached the ability to fly multi-stage dual deployment rockets in preparation for a competition in October 2018. Whether it be the countless hours spent in designing each rocket using optimization for maximum altitude or the manufacturing and assembly of each component, I am often asked if the adventure we have partaken into our daily lives has been an enjoyable one. Every time I am asked this, I must think of the truthful way to answer it. Although it can be frustrating to see a rocket that has taken many hours away from you over the past weeks fly away, never to be seen again, it is the most incredible feeling I have ever experienced. The work would not be exciting if it was easy.

As Founder and Chief Technical Officer of UNH SEDS, I have developed a skill set that allows me to understand my organization members' personalities and commitments to better manage the team. Teamwork is a skill that can only be learned in practice and having experience in engineering projects has helped me be a better communicator and team player. In my research position this past summer through a research award, I was able to gain experience in data analysis using Python and the experience has given me a better understanding of the process of research and working under deadlines. I have also begun research during the Spring semester of 2018 pertaining to stress triaxiality in aluminum and steel specimens. I have been able to gain experience in manufacturing the specimens that will be used for testing this Summer 2018. Working outside of my academic pursuits is also crucial to my experience and skill set. I fill most of my free time with projects, including the build of an electric longboard and a rebuild of a broken moped I bought for \$10.00, to name a few.

All the curiosity and imagination I apply to my daily life is to continue my learning to one day become a part of SpaceX's world changing team. Work culture is extremely important to productivity and I think my personality would fit perfectly in this position if given the opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Charlie Nitschelm