

Industrial Placement Interim Progress Report 2

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with

Griffon Hoverwork Ltd.
Design Department
SOUTHAMPTON

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SUMMARY

LIST OF SYMBOLS, ACRONYMS AND TECHNICAL TERMS

12000TD	A twelve tonne payload hovercraft, currently being built, that will operate				
	as a passenger ferry from Southsea, Portsmouth to Ryde, Isle of Wight.				
Archived parts	Redundant parts used in a previous version of an assembly, kept for				
	traceability.				
ВОМ	Bill of materials. It consists of the raw materials, sub-assemblies, sub-				
	components, parts and the quantities of each needed to manufacture an end				
	product				
DXF file	A file compatible with all CAD software used in the industry that gives a 2D				
	representation of a part.				
eDrawing	A file compatible with all CAD software used in the industry that gives a 3D				
	representation of a part.				
GRP	Short for 'glass-reinforced plastic', this is a strong, lightweight material that				
	the wheelhouse was fabricated from. It is also known as fiberglass.				
Installation	A multi-page drawing created to help with the installation of a complex part				
drawing	into the craft. Commonly used in Stage 2, and to a lesser degree, Stage 3.				
Lloyd's Register	This organization inspect, provide quality assurance and certifications for				
	ships and other vehicles in the machine industry.				
OEM components					
	from external companies to use in the hovercraft.				
Passenger cabin	The area in which passengers were situated while the craft was in				
	operation.				
Production job card	, 1				
	production facility.				
SolidWorks	The CAD modelling software currently used by the company.				
12000TD Build	Officially called "Module Outfitting", this stage covers the creation of cabin				
Stage 2	parts, such as decks, engine frames and wheelhouses.				
12000TD Build	Officially called "Hovercraft Integration", this stage covers the installation				
Stage 3	of several parts designed in Stage 2, as well as electrical, thermal and				
	protective work done on the craft. By the end of this, the hovercraft should				
	be nearly complete.				
Wheelhouse	The area from which the craft is piloted.				
Work package	Created and controlled by one detail designer, this is a folder that consists				
	of an assembly, all the parts needed to make this assembly and CAD				
	drawings. It also contains DXF files, eDrawings, PDF's and archived parts, as				
	well as a production job card and a BOM. Each task generally assigned is a				
	work package relating to a specific craft.				

INTRODUCTION

Griffon Hoverwork Ltd. is a British hovercraft manufacturer based in Merlin Quay, Southampton since the beginning of 2011.^[1] Created from the merger of Griffon Hovercraft Ltd. and Hoverwork Ltd. in 2009 by the Bland Group, Griffon are at the forefront of hovercraft development and currently have over 200 craft operating in 40 countries spanning five continents.^[2] These craft are used in a variety of applications such as search and rescue, passenger ferries and military operations, as well as other non-standard uses such as cricket pitch covers and crop sprayers.^[3]

WORK, PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Griffon Hoverwork have been going through some tough times in the period since the last report was written, and a number of redundancies have been made throughout the company – including my senior industrial supervisor, Jason Mardell. Further cuts have also been made in the modelling department, as the total number of people in this department is now four (including myself and another placement student). As a result of this, there hasn't been as much original design work in this period, as a lot of the work assigned has been picked up from departing employees, as well as finishing off work packages by producing CAD drawings to release to production.

A selection of some of the projects undertaken in this period is detailed below. Some assembly drawings are also included in *Appendix A*.

FIT MAIN CABIN DECK (12000TD - STAGE 2)

One of the most important jobs picked up was the completion of the main cabin deck of the hovercraft. Using a unique 'planking' system, the design of this was for the floor to securely clip together, negating the need to rivet every plank. When picked up, the front of the planking needed a redesign as the front end of the craft had been changed. This eventually ballooned into a remodeling job, as the BOM every model produced was not working due to how this component had been previously modelled. An installation drawing was also produced.

FABRICATE MAST (12000TD - STAGE 2)

Another job picked up was converting the current mast model, which was to hold several pieces of important navigation equipment, into a production model that complied with Griffon's internal standards. As well as this, an assembly drawing showing how this unique design was meant to be put together had to be produced. This is a job that will be carried over to Stage 3, which will include the fitting of brought in parts to the mast.

DRAWINGS & OEM COMPONENTS (12000TD - STAGE 2)

As man power was down, the design office was unintentionally split into two sections; designers and CAD drawing production. As a result of this, the majority of the work done in this period was drawing up designs to send to production. Because a lot of these designs were unique, a lot of work packages in Stage 2 came with an installation drawing to help Production. Examples of these can be seen in *Appendix A*.

OEM components are parts brought from an external buyer, which then required a model to see if they were appropriate for the craft. These parts involved liaising with the electrical engineers, as the majority of items modelled were electronic components.

WHEELHOUSE JIG (12000TD - STAGE 2)

One of the few original designs in this period was a jig for the wheelhouse tub used in the craft. Because the wheelhouse is made of GRP, a mold was to be made which allowed this to be created. However, contained within the wheelhouse were holes for four mounts which would later be used when lifting the wheelhouse onto the hovercraft. The position of these holes was critical – if they were out by a small amount, then the wheelhouse wouldn't fit onto the mounts designed earlier on the hovercraft. The role of the jig therefore, was to maintain the position of these mounts while the mold was being made.

To make this design slightly harder, only stock metal was to be used in the design and fabrication of this part. This created difficulty, as quite often the required size wasn't available.

STRUCTURAL FIRE PROTECTION (12000TD - STAGE 3)

One of the most important jobs at the beginning of Stage 3 was the fitting of structural fire protection to the wheelhouse. As this is a key part of the craft in terms of safety, there was an engineering standard that had to be closely followed whilst designing this part of the craft. This is a part that will also be surveyed by the Lloyd's Register.

CONCLUSION/REFLECTION ON THE PLACEMENT SO FAR

With circumstances rapidly changing in this time period, a lot of work was produced in a short period of time. Saying this, this allowed me to work with Production a lot more, as a lot of the work I produced in this time period directly affected what happened on the shop floor. I also think that some of the drawings produced in this time period were the best I've ever done.

I think that my personal development has increased a lot during the last couple of months, as I begin to see how the Design Office directly affects the actions of production, especially with regard to tolerancing and giving clear instructions on drawings. I also had a chance to produce drawings for a sales proposal to Nigeria, as well as mentoring incoming work experience students for the duration of their stay with the company.

Stage 2 required the most work of any of the four build stages of the hovercraft; in early January, the modelling department started to move onto Stage 3. This should take a lot of pressure off the modelling department, as the majority of the work in this stage consists of installing OEM and electrical components. I am also due to start running the ECR system in February.

REFERENCES

- 1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Griffon Hoverwork
- 2. http://www.griffonhoverwork.com/about-us.aspx
- 3. http://www.shippingandmarine.co.uk/article-page.php?contentid=15908&issueid=454

APPENDIX A

















