

John Canada

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Summary

As a focused and results-driven leader with a strong background in aerospace composite manufacturing and assembly, I have a proven track record of success in optimizing production schedules, mentoring team members, and delivering high-quality results. Throughout my career, I have excelled in a variety of roles, from Assistant Project Manager to Assembly Supervisor, and have consistently demonstrated my ability to lead cross-functional teams, identify and resolve roadblocks, and drive innovation. With exceptional communication skills, a dedication to personal and professional growth, and a passion for excellence, I am confident in my ability to make a valuable contribution to any team.

Experience

Lead Payload Integration Technician | SpaceX – Vandenberg, CA | August 2024 – Present

- Lead the integration of payloads onto launch vehicles, ensuring compliance with rigorous aerospace standards and schedules.
- Coordinate cross-functional teams, including engineering, quality assurance, and operations, to streamline integration processes.
- Conduct detailed inspections and tests to verify payload compatibility and system functionality.
- Troubleshoot and resolve complex technical issues during integration, minimizing delays and ensuring mission readiness.
- Develop and implement process improvements to enhance efficiency and maintain high-quality standards.
- Familiarized with high-pressure systems, crane rigging, ESD (Electrostatic Discharge) procedures, and ISO-class cleanroom environments.

Assembly Supervisor | Virgin Galactic | January 2022 – July 2024

- Directly manage and supervise a team of over 20 employees on the manufacturing floor, ensuring efficient and effective performance.
- Foster a culture of growth and development by identifying training needs and providing on-the-job coaching and support to team members, resulting in a highly skilled and motivated workforce.
- Drive manufacturing schedule optimization by proactively identifying talent gaps and roadblocks, implementing solutions, and leading the team to meet production targets.
- Maintain regular communication with upper management through various channels, including daily status updates, Zoom meetings, PowerPoint presentations, and shop walks, ensuring alignment with business goals and objectives.
- Collaborate closely with cross-functional teams across departments to achieve shared manufacturing goals and objectives, demonstrating strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Increase transparency in production scheduling and planning by implementing clear and effective communication processes and tools, enabling the team to see the big picture and work more efficiently.
- Foster a culture of continuous learning and development by encouraging and facilitating cross-training opportunities, resulting in a well-rounded and highly capable team.

Assistant Project Manager | Virgin Galactic | August 2021 – Present

- Provided regular updates on manufacturing, engineering, and production control to program management, ensuring effective communication and alignment between teams.
- Maintained accurate and up-to-date resource tracking to support program schedule adherence, enabling timely decision-making and issue resolution.
- Served as a key communication liaison between program management office, engineering, and manufacturing teams, building strong relationships, and promoting collaboration.
- Assisted with forecasting resource requirements for manufacturing, proactively identifying potential roadblocks and taking corrective actions to ensure timely delivery.
- Developed and implemented standard format documents and spreadsheets to facilitate communication and information sharing between shifts and departments, improving operational efficiency and reducing errors.
- Utilized Microsoft Project to maintain and update project timelines, ensuring project contract requirements were met.

Lead Manufacturing Technician | Virgin Galactic | October 2020 – December 2021

- Lead and motivate a team of technicians to achieve and exceed production goals by setting clear expectations, providing constructive feedback, and recognizing and rewarding their successes.
- Foster a culture of continuous learning and development by coaching and mentoring technicians, identifying training needs, and providing opportunities for personal and professional growth.
- Monitor and optimize production workflow by analyzing performance metrics, identifying bottlenecks, and implementing process improvements that increase efficiency and reduce waste.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams, including Production Control, Engineering, and Quality, to develop and implement production schedules that meet customer requirements and align with shop capability.
- Ensure product quality and compliance by performing in-process inspections, implementing quality control measures, and resolving non-conformances in a timely and effective manner.
- Provide ongoing on-the-job training and development to technicians to enhance their skills and improve team capabilities.
- Prioritize tasks and allocate resources based on skill and availability to ensure timely completion of production goals.
- Proactively identify and address manufacturing issues by analyzing root causes, proposing solutions, and driving implementation.
- Communicate daily production updates to upper management and facilitate inter-shift communication to ensure smooth handover and continuity of production operations.

SR. MANUFACTURING TECHNICIAN | THE SPACESHIP COMPANY | JANUARY 2018 – October 2020

- Proficiently perform composite part layup using traditional techniques as well as advanced methods such as laser-aided layup.
- Accurately trim and drill composite structures with precision to meet tight tolerances.
- Guide and mentor fellow technicians on technical functions and workflow to support personal and team goals.
- Excel in layup of small and complex parts with both pre-impregnated and wet resin systems.
- Propose innovative suggestions that have streamlined manufacturing processes and enhanced layup quality.
- Utilize a variety of tools, including basic hand tools, power tools, and pneumatic tools, to fabricate some of the most complex parts in the build.

QUALITY LAB TECHNICIAN | TENCATE ADVANCED COMPOSITES | JUNE 2016 – DECEMBER 2017

- Produced high-quality test specimens through expert pre-preg layup techniques.
- Proficient in working with a variety of weaved fabrics, including carbon, fiberglass, Kevlar, and Astro-quartz, as well as uni-directional carbon tape.
- Skilled in operating and programming autoclaves and circulating air ovens to ensure proper curing of specimens.
- Optimized the layup process to reduce testing duration while maintaining the integrity and quality of the specimens.
- Streamlined data collection by consolidating multiple data logs, resulting in increased efficiency and accuracy.

MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN | ICON AIRCRAFT | NOVEMBER 2015 – MAY 2016

- Developed comprehensive production work instructions by interpreting engineering drawings, using 3-D modeling software, and hands-on experience to eliminate tribal knowledge on the production floor.

- Managed oven and cure cycle by self-teaching on tuning PID controller loops, ensuring accurate and consistent production.
- Collaborated with engineering team to identify production issues and develop solutions to improve efficiency and quality.
- Utilized PLEX software to manage production Bill of Materials (BOM) structures and streamline inventory management.
- Optimized manufacturing processes to increase production rate and repeatability, reducing waste and enhancing quality.
- Created document control solutions for electronic deployment of work instructions, improving accessibility and accuracy of information for production teams.

Education

Associates in business Administration | Bakersfield College | May 2019 – Present (incomplete)

- 3.6 GPA

Experience in lieu of Bachelor's Degree.