DISTek

DISTek Company Overview

In Iowa, seeing a large off-highway vehicle — a tractor, combine, or crawler — on the highway or in the field is an everyday occurrence. What you don't see is the software running these big machines — the transmission controls, operator controls, or the hydraulics. That software controls the giant machines and allows them to complete their tasks. That software is DISTek Integration, Inc.'s focus.

DISTek is an employee-owned company that has been offering engineering services for more than 28 years. Specifically, our experience with ag electronics, communication networks, and embedded control software enables us to take a customized approach to partner with our clients to ensure they get the solutions they need. Based in Cedar Falls, Iowa, we have expanded to the regions of Des Moines and Dubuque, Iowa; Fargo, North Dakota; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. What started as a one-person engineering consulting business based on a family farm in rural Illinois grew into a company of 110 employee-owners.

What Engineering Division(s) does DISTek hire?

- Electrical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Software Engineering
- Agricultural Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering with Simulink/Modeling background
- Computer Science

What engineering challenges does DISTek face?

Like other companies, DISTek constantly balances the demands of providing higher value with increased quality in a shorter amount of time at lower costs. We also work to maintain technical expertise in our key areas of embedded systems, modeling, and vehicle simulation.

What is DISTek looking for when hiring and engineering intern/full-time employee?

In hiring full-time engineers, DISTek focuses on if the candidate and DISTek are a good fit. We look at experience – what the candidates gained from internships/jobs, activities, and classes – to verify their backgrounds and desires match what we do. We also consider potential employees' attitudes to working on large vehicles – are they comfortable around big machines such as tractors, and do they like hands-on work – are they comfortable getting their hands dirty dealing with hydraulics. Finally, we also examine knowledge and skills – what is their major and how strong are their problem-solving abilities, communication competencies, and programming language expertise – Embedded C, Simulink, and/or LabVIEW. Ensuring we have a good fit is also important when hiring interns. We begin by looking at career desires and programming backgrounds, making sure they match DISTek's focus such that we can mentor them and give them valuable experience as they are figuring out their future. Then, we consider the other traits outlined for full-time employees but expect less knowledge, skills, and experience as we are talking with college juniors and seniors.

Company Highlight:
DISTek

What is unique about DISTek?

On day two of employment at DISTek, employees become owners. Being 100% employee-owned, employees' actions influence the direction of the company. Employees' actions are guided by our core values. Our core values keep us focused and state the behaviors that we expect from each other. Recognizing that words and ideas listed on paper are meaningless without the link to real action, as employee-owners, we strive to live our values by putting them into action. At DISTek, we are constantly catching each other making the right choices, putting our core values into daily action, and living the DISTek Way. By consistently aligning our business interactions with our core values, our vision for future success remains clear. For us that vision includes being highly customer-focused, providing the "Best Total Solution" for our clients. For DISTek, focusing on giving the "Best Total Solution" means building bonds with our clients, just like the relationships between good neighbors. Our goal is to drive loyalty by delivering the total value to the client. We focus on relationships, on-time results, and top-notch service. At the end of the day, working at DISTek is not just a job; it is a way of life that includes being part of a family – the DISTek family.

Additional information you'd like to share?

DISTek provides a high-tech, challenging, and productive work environment while still retaining a small company atmosphere. We uphold family values and common sense, two practices that have helped carry us through the exciting challenges and opportunities that we have faced. We hire talented, innovative thinkers who have the drive and ambition to help our company grow. Whether it is listening to new ideas or expanding our services, our management loves to hear new insights from our employees and encourages our team to think outside of the box. We understand that our employees are our greatest assets. Our employees make DISTek who we are.

ON FACEBOOK?

Join our E-APP Facebook group to stay connected to what's going on in the College of Engineering and across the Iowa State University campus. Highlights include events, awards, class projects, and competitions. We'll try to post new items at least once each week.

TRANSFER ADMISSION PROCESS CHECKLIST

Keep up on important deadlines – stay on track by following the guidelines recommended on the transfer application checklist. As an E-APP member, you are one step closer to being admitted to Iowa State, but you must still officially apply for admission. You can complete that first step as early as one year in advance of your intended ISU start date.

https://www.admissions.iastate.edu/transfer/checklist.php

Found at: https://www.engineering.iastate.edu/transfer/files/2020/11/Transfer-Student-Newsletter_NOV-2020_-1.pdf