

Nanditha Kotha

kothananditha@gmail.com | 214-709-2946

OBJECTIVE

Automotive industry professional with 7 years of product development and program management experience. Led program life cycle from requirements, analysis, design, risk assessment, planning, development, verification and launch. On course for PMP certification in November 2020.

EXPERIENCE

Program Engineer (Lighting & plastic trim)

Mar 2018 – Jan 2020

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Group

Auburn Hills, MI

Led design and development of lighting components to improve part quality and manufacturing processes

- Managed part cost, weight, tooling, timing, packaging, assembly and other aspects of the lighting components
- Led on time product deliveries by conducting program team meetings with tier 1 suppliers, functional leads, program management, studio, purchasing and assembly operations
- Developed lighting and sensor electrical functions and supporting modules to meet lighting regulations and standards
- Implemented change requests and authored 15 design rules over 18 months which added to preventive recurrence
- Improved part design, quality and customer satisfaction by investigating top warranty issues from previous model year programs which reduced warranty by 21% the following year
- Assessed detailed breakdown of components with cost analysts and reduced product price for multiple programs
- Resolved field failures by leading engineering teams to apply concepts of Six Sigma problem solving methodologies to reduce warranty returns of backlights on a major carline from 25/1000 to 5/1000
- Developed and reviewed 3D CAD, GD&T and drawings with tier 1 suppliers to resolve issues on tooling and assembly

Program Engineer (Design, release & launch – Body exterior)

Jun 2013 – Feb 2018

Ford Motor Company

Dearborn, MI & Kansas City, MO

Executed new product development projects in body exterior trim systems. Ensured program assumptions are met within milestones for exterior trim systems in Ford and Lincoln programs while leading and tracking activities with global cross functional teams

New vehicle Ford Bronco - exterior lighting

Feb 2017 – Feb 2018

- Led cross functional team's weekly reviews to align with studio design and comply with NHTSA regulations, FMVSS specifications and Ford Internal requirements including design rules, specifications and assembly interface requirements
- Developed detailed program plans and scheduled activities to support a compressed program delivery requirement
- Collaborated with electrical and mechatronics teams to integrate functions, connectors and wiring into vehicle design
- Managed program budget based on design content changes by negotiating with purchasing, finance and supplier
- Negotiated with vehicle program team and design studio by creating a tool to evaluate BOM, timing, requirements tradeoffs which helped the program save \$5 per taillight
- Established a plan for achieving project targets with ED&D resources; on-time, on-spec, and on-cost

New model Ford Escape & Lincoln MKZ - fixed glass

Oct 2015 – Jan 2017

- Accelerated for an agreement on content with program management, cost and design feasibility by examining BOB (Best of Benchmarked) competitive vehicles to save 15% on vendor tooling and 6% on the piece price
- Developed and utilized BOM (Bill of Materials) as base for quoting and negotiating with purchasing and tier 1 supplier
- Documented program requirements to support purchasing team for issuing 4 RFQs to source new parts

- Amended supplier contracts by coordinating with legal teams and commercial teams to ensure updated program deliverables are captured and committed

Mid-cycle Ford Escape - fixed glass, wipers and washers

Aug 2014 – Oct 2015

- Developed DFMEA and PFMEA for improved part design quality and vehicle assembly process to identify risk terms in each subsystem and supported prototype build events at tier 1 and vehicle assembly plant
- Performed key engineering checks for packaging, digital pre-assembly, design specifications and manufacturing feasibility
- Planned, developed and executed DVP&R/PVP&R (Design/Production Verification Plan & Requirements) and SCCAF's (Special Characteristics Communication and Agreement Form) for new design intent parts
- Oversaw all phases of PPAP (Production Part Approval Process) delivery at tier 1 facilities

New vehicle Ford Transit launch- glass, mirrors, wipers & washers, fuel doors and badges

Jun 2013 – Aug 2014

- Resolved part quality and plant build issues through root cause analysis, applying Six Sigma tools and documented 8D's
- Led bi-weekly reviews with multiple tier 1 suppliers to plan activities and ensure PPAP phases are met
- Evaluated APQP (Advanced Product Quality Planning) reports from suppliers through various stages of prototype builds and SOP (Start of Production)
- Developed interim and permanent corrective actions to close plant build issues in 24 hours
- Evaluated design changes on prototype parts by conducting trials and ensured fit, finish and functionality ahead of production schedule

Injection molding project

Sep 2012 - Dec 2012

[The University of Texas](#)

[Tyler, TX](#)

Attained 100% efficiency of injection molding machine productivity, incremented the throughput threefold and quality of production

Project Engineer

Jun 2012 – Aug 2012

[StarCo Technologies](#)

[Longview, TX](#)

Assisted with documentation of research and milestone progress at a consumer technology research startup company

Project Coordinator

Jun 2010 – Dec 2010

[Protonsys Technologies](#)

[Hyderabad, India](#)

Created and tracked project timelines; Coordinated meetings to update and report project status

EDUCATION & TRAINING

MS in Industrial Management

Dec 2012

[The University of Texas at Tyler](#)

BS in Electrical Engineering

May 2010

[Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University](#)

Trained in Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma

Sep 2012

Ongoing Training in PMP certification

Expected Nov 2020

SKILLS

- Proficient in MS Project, MS Office Suite, Google Suite
- Hands-on experience in CATIA, Team Center Visio/Digital Buck and NX
- Excellent written and verbal skills to work in a cross functional global environment, experienced in managing simultaneous programs by leading multiple suppliers and engineering teams
- Program management and problem-solving skills
- Experienced in product lifecycle management and product development