ECTE250 Individual Project Contribution Report aa bb –

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Introduction –

The purpose of this reflection is to describe my personal efforts, contributions, successes, and failures within this project. In a brief overview, the project ran well, with minimal to no conflicts of any kind. I personally believe the team I was assigned to, worked well together, and was geared towards helping each other out. Though noting my own valuable contributions, I think it is highly important to signify that without the strength of the team and their commitment towards delivering a great project, I wouldn't have been able to perform as well as I did.

1. How successful was the project/ prototype in achieving its desired outcomes?

The project succeeded based on the initial design. There were, however, some elements such as the manual override and LPR that were taken away. This was due to the unexpected effort of the Vero board stage. Although worked on, the manual override was never able to be incorporated **[Week 4 & 8]** due to the large footprint it would have taken on the Vero board. Some other personal contributions that I believe led to greater project success was the time and effort I and D dedicated to the hardware build **[Week 7, 12]**. As mentioned in the reflections, we stayed extended hours after hours to build this project, including 2 full nights at the university. As far as some shortcomings in the project, I believe a clearer design for the hardware structure could have allowed us to complete this build in a timelier manner. As well as more personal involvement in the design of the state machine. Having never designed one, I was keen to do so, but due to extending circumstances I was unable to. However, in comparison with other teams, I believe we fared well, as well as achieving majority of the initial desired outcomes.

2. How you worked with your other team members and what was your direct and indirect contribution to the team's project referred to your final team's submitted report?

Initially, I began in the team lead role. Within this role I assisted greatly in organising, scheduling meetings, and ensuring everyone was well communicated with **[Week 1, 2, 3]**. Throughout the project, these roles changed. I strongly worked with D, A & other team members who were highly interested in the hardware elements of this project. In Week 9 and10, as we did the largest part of the soldering **[Week 9 & 10],** I was able to help J better her soldering skills, due to my previous professional experience in this field. I was also always assisting in the reporting, which included all our team members. Unavoidably, conflict arose, some minor issues around the bread board, when schematics were not updated in our share drive, causing D and I large delays when building. This however was resolved with a short conversation and allowed for growth within the team [**Week 7**]. Overall, I think I made a valuable contribution to this project.

3. What project related difficulties did you encounter as a member of the team and how were these eventually overcome or why they were never resolved?

I think a unique difficulty our team faced was people's eagerness. In some instances, some team members would rush into tasks and do parts they were not assigned to due to wanting to learn. Although, intrinsically, this is not a terrible problem to face, some people felt that they were unable to valuably contribute. This was resolved with small discussions and with intentional assigning of tasks. As previously stated, having professional experience, I was able to bring skills that others didn't possess. However, due to a lack of tools, materials, and a budget for it, sometimes, certain components did not meet my expectations, and I went out of my way to improve parts [**Week 5 & 6**]. This built-up frustration within me and caused me to not take pride within our project. Having seen other teams and other people share the same issues, I was able to overcome this and persist with the project. Probably the main issue that was also highlighted previously, was communication **[Week 7]**. Due to people's different preferences, we used multiple communication outlets, such as instant messaging, Meetings, Seminar & Lab activities, and brisk conversations when bumping into each other. Overall, all conflicts were resolved, this outcome was highly pleasing, and allowed us to always be able to approach one another in learning & understanding. I'm glad all conflicts as minor as they were, were able to be resolved & address politely and in a timely manner.

4. If you were starting the project again, what would you do differently to improve the projects outcomes?

I would make a much smaller state machine. Due to lack of clarity across the guidelines of this project, I believe the complexity requirements of this project may have been lost in the detail. If given the chance, I believe a state machine that served a minor purpose, would allow for better time and fault management. I think it would also be beneficial to have made something more visible than 3 LEDs. I would also have liked to have incorporated the LCD screen. This was not possible due to constrains of our microprocessor as well as time limitations. Another thing I would change is the communication structure from the beginning of the project. I think that assigning certain individuals with singular tasks affected not only the outcome of the project but also the morale of the team **[Week 7].** The main aspect I would change, was my involvement in the software development. Partly due to a bit of shyness and mainly due to aiming to get things done as efficiently as possible, I was unable to assist in that. Having passions that lie in learning software, I wish I was able to contribute to the project in that aspect. I think this would've improved the project as I would've not only assisted in the workload, but also would've have been able to provide more perspective. All in all, I am thrilled with the outcome of this project.