

Mark T. Traxler

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Portfolio Please see marktraxler.com for more information

Profile 25 years of leadership in product development at General Motors, Saturn Corporation & Eaton Marine Hydraulics.

Strong technical manager through the complete product development cycle, from concept initiation to high volume production and continuous improvement.

Possess a passion for the design and creative processes and a personality that demands attention to detail.

Proven to be an effective, application oriented, teacher through the success of past students. Taught several Apprentice and Journeyman courses in GM's statistical problem solving program.

Designed, developed and implemented over 50 mechanical systems in the automotive and marine industries.

Professional performance evaluations list project management as one of my strongest skill sets. It is a listed strength along with technical, analytical, and engineering capabilities.

Completed a 3 year, structured, technical problem solving training program. Master certified statistical engineer. (Red X). Actively used techniques extensively over the past 5 years.

Completed 2 year GM designing engineer program. Fully trained in Unigraphics solid modeling. (UGNX 3)

Resident, onsite product engineer at GM, Saturn and Eaton manufacturing sites for the past 15 years.

Very hands on manager that is focused on creating and meeting clearly defined technical, quality, timing, and financial goals.

Education MBA , JIU, Centennial CO. Summa Cum Laude.

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Successfully completed over 200 technical and management development courses through the technical training organizations at General Motors, Saturn and Eaton.

Completed several Society of Automotive Engineer classes in engineering and engineering management.

Relevant Experience & Accomplishments

Product Design & Development

- Managed mechanical design and development projects through all development phases including concept, design, validation, and production.
- Awarded 2 mechanical design patents. Patent #'s 5,577,418 and 4,986,675.
- Proficient using Unigraphics NX3 for solid modeling. Familiar with Catia and AutoCad.
- Designed, developed and implemented over 50 mechanical systems in the automotive and marine industries.
- Brainstormed several concepts for outboard engine power steering systems. Selected and created a unique, non automotive type, power steering system for large outboard marine engines (115+ hp). The system included:
 - A hydraulic actuator with internal control valving.
 - A hydraulic floating piston accumulator (900 - 1200 psi).
 - A precision external gear hydraulic pump.
 - A 12 volt permanent magnet motor.
 - A sealed reservoir and high/low pressure hoses and fittings.

Manufacturing, Quality and Material

- Addressed vehicle system quality issues for 11 major GM vehicle launches.
- Managed supplier part quality during pre-production (APQP) and production program phases.
- Team leader of the Voice of the Customer (VOC) team, vehicle exterior issues, for 6 vehicle models. Compiled and analyzed JD Power, and warranty data. Defined engineering issues, performed root cause analysis and led team to implement solutions for wind noise, water leaks and door closing effort issues. Managed input from several data streams.
- Diagnosed and resolved engineering issues for complex production tools and processes. These included transfer and progressive dies, plastic injection molds, rubber compression molds, rubber and aluminum extrusions, painting processes, investment casting, die casting and assembly operations.
- Chose appropriate materials to meet part function and environmental exposure requirements for automotive and marine applications. These included wrought/cast aluminum, plastics, carbon and stainless steels.
- Selected and defined appropriate manufacturing processes to manufacture automotive and marine products and components. Specified requirements of processes.

Project Management

- Provided engineering leadership in supplier evaluation and sourcing decisions for 2 major vehicle subsystems.
- Managed all aspects of resourcing project for major vehicle subsystem. One year project, no direct line authority for personnel. Results of project lowered product cost by 10% and warranty costs by 30%. Increased product quality as measured by JD Power by 50%. Project was completed within budget, on time.
- Project leader for 7 different multidiscipline (Engineering, purchasing, finance, supplier quality, supplier engineering, manufacturing engineering) teams during launch and start up of new vehicles. All projects met or exceeded expected results.
- Utilized Gantt, PERT and Work Breakdown structures for project planning/tracking. Managed critical path items. Used resource planning tools to allocate and level workload. Proficient with Microsoft Project.

Technical Problem Solving

- GM Master Certified Statistical Problem Solver (Red X) since 2004. Journeyman, 2002. Apprentice 2001.
- Coached 2 individuals to Master certification level.
- Resolved many difficult process and tooling issues for a total reduction in warranty of 112 DPTV and a total reduction in JD Power issues of 43 pph.
- Taught several apprentice and journeyman problem solving courses as part of GM's technical training program.

Resource Management

- 4 years as Team Leader of product development group. Direct line supervisor of 2 engineers, 1 designer, 1 detailer, 1 model maker, and a test technician.
- Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence by ASQ
- GM campus recruiter for the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.
- Managed all areas of several major product development and quality projects. Areas included engineering, purchasing, supplier quality, and finance. Demonstrated ability to lead project teams within matrixed organization, with no direct reports..
- Managed supplier's quality for vehicle body systems and components.

Employment	Manufacturing/Quality Engineer , Eaton Marine Hydraulics, Lansing, MI	<i>1984-1985</i>
	Product Design Engineer , Eaton Marine Hydraulics, Lansing, MI	<i>1985-1986</i>
	Product Engineering Team Leader , Eaton Marine Hydraulics, Lansing, MI	<i>1986-1990</i>
	Sr. Design/Release Engineer , General Motors Corp., Troy, MI	<i>1990-1994</i>
	Sr. Project Release Engineer , Saturn Corporation, Spring Hill, TN	<i>1994-1998</i>
	Vehicle Project Engineer , Saturn Corporation, Spring Hill, TN	<i>1998-2006</i>
	Quality Engineer , General Motors Corporation, Spring Hill, TN	<i>2006-Present</i>

Community Involvement

Vanderbilt University Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Board
Centennial High School Career and Technical Education Advisory Council
American Society for Quality
Engineers Without Borders: Nashville Professionals, UT Knoxville, Vanderbilt University, Lipscomb University