

Robert F. Schirtzinger
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Synopsis

'Rob' Schirtzinger has over 25 year's experience in engineering research and development, industrial product design, and leadership of 'rapid response' engineering teams requiring technical innovation and personal initiative.

Education

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering; Portsmouth University, Portsmouth, England. Specialized knowledge in the field of composite structural design and analysis.

Employment

Walt Disney Imagineering: Pioneered introduction of complex 3D surface modeling software for use in the industrial design and ergonomic layout of theme park ride vehicles including "Benny the Cab". Other projects included surface modeling and design of the "Indiana Jones Stunt Theater" Flying Wing show prop, lightweight composite seats for simulator motion base ride vehicles, ride attraction props, and safety upgrades for ride vehicles.

Air Logistics Corporation: Served as director and officer for privately held engineering company specializing in products for the telecommunication, aerospace, and structural composite industries. Assisted Chief Engineer in the acquisition, development, and marketing of "Aquapreg", a revolutionary water curing composite 'pre-preg' for use in on site repair of oil pipelines, highway infrastructure repair, maritime structures, as well as temporary tooling moulds.

Scaled Composites Inc. (aerospace firm founded by Burt Rutan): Lead project engineer, flight test director, and evaluation pilot for "Predator 480" all composite experimental aircraft. Originated and executed design initiatives that reduced aircraft empty weight by 9%. Originated and executed flight test modifications that increased climb efficiency by 20% and reduce takeoff distance by 15%.

Other projects included project management and analysis for the Teledyne Ryan M324 high altitude RPV, Beech "Starship" 'proof of concept' corporate turboprop, DARPA ATTT prototype transport aircraft, Beech 'Next Generation Cabin Twin' test aircraft.

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation: Engineer for Lockheed ‘Advanced Development Projects’ (a.k.a., the “Skunk Works”) performing mass properties analysis for advanced tactical aircraft.

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Air Log Ltd.: Engineering “Apprentice of the year”, 1980.

Consulting Projects

“Stars and Stripes” America’s Cup Defender: Developed composite structures and performed FEA (finite element analysis) for the revolutionary ‘rigid wing’ catamaran.

SAIC Range Systems/Fox Engineering Analysis: Developed FEA model for vibration analysis of electronic suite and ISO container.

Hyspan/Fox Engineering Analysis: FEA analysis of high temperature industrial ducting and associated expansion joints.

Stoughton Composites: Conceptual and preliminary design of an all composite ISO refrigerated container. This design led to the funding of full production in association with American Presidents Line.

Barry Controls: Conceptual and prototype design and construction of low weight composite GPS pallet.

Eagle Aircraft of Australia: Supervised conceptual design, detail design, stress analysis of all composite airframe for the ‘Eagle’ sport aircraft. Supervised construction, load testing, and preparation of reports for Australian Department of Aviation.

Wine Industry Experience

Hartford Court Winery: Cellar worker for the 2004 ‘crush’.

UC Davis: “Introduction to Wine Analysis” workshop, January 2005.

Additional Qualifications and Skills

Visual Arts:

Photography (film and digital) including computer image manipulation (Photoshop/Painter) and fine art large format printing. Digital video production including editing (Final Cut Pro) and post production. Industrial design using traditional media and 3D and surface modeling software. Graphic design (Illustrator).

FAA Licenses: CPL/IR/ME; CFI Airplane/Instruments (not current).

Sports/hobbies: tennis, skiing, scuba, motor sports.