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Position Description

JOB TITLE: Product Development Engineer

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

REPORTS TO: Engineering Manager

SUMMARY: The product development engineer is responsible for translating customer needs, ideas and requirements into functional prototypes and/or finished products, from concept through manufacturing integration. This position collaborates with internal and external customers to create solutions that can be successfully executed through manufacturing while meeting or exceeding performance and cost targets. The scope will involve creation of 2D or 3D design and electronic model in CAD software, tool fabrication oversight, validation and manufacturing integration.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Collaborate with customer to define project scope, expectations, and requirements; lead design reviews; and support product validations.
- Interface with Customer, Sales, Manufacturing at two locations and Engineering team members.
- Create 2D/3D product designs, including electronic CAD models in SolidWorks, ensuring that designs align with factory capabilities, capacity and core competencies
- Conduct product design reviews with customers, internally and with suppliers
- Create multi-cavity product design information in SolidWorks to facilitate tool design and fabrication
- Develop & participate in manufacturing process development
- Create manufacturing work instructions and process control documentation
- Work with manufacturing in the realization on continuous improvement projects
- Support problem resolution, determining root cause with effective documentation and countermeasure planning based on engineering disciplines.
- Coordinate/conduct product validation testing including dimensional documentation.
- Participate in new technology investigations
- Coordinate and drive multiple projects per required schedule and budget.
- Establish personal development need and execution schedule for learning.
- Perform other related duties as assigned by management.
- May require travel to support business and project objectives (<20%).

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- This job has no direct supervisory responsibilities

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Prior experience using SolidWorks CAD software creating detailed 2D/3D design drawings and models for consumer-based products. Practical application with molded pulp fiber is desirable.
- Bachelor's Degree (BS) in a technical curriculum from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 3 years designing products in SolidWorks. An Associates Degree (AA/AT) maybe acceptable if extensive product design experience has been demonstrated.
- Certification of SolidWorks training to an intermediate level or greater is preferred. Should be currently fluent with the CAD software including creating dimensions and tolerances.
- Able to read and understand a CAD/blueprint drawing.
- Understanding and use of SolidWorks PDM (product data management) system is desired.
- Able to identify potential manufacturing issues inherent to a product design or fabricated tooling.
- Computer skills required: MS Excel, Word & PowerPoint. Experience with Epicor and Mastercam are a plus.
- Knowledgeable of tool construction and fabrication techniques are an additional plus.
- Must be able to prioritize, drive and coordinate multiple development projects at the same time along with day to day manufacturing support activities.
- A strong sense of urgency is required; balanced with a high level of detailed thoroughness.
- Time management skills are critical.
- Ability to work within a cross functional team environment that includes influencing others to provide timely project input/out.
- High level of communication skills are required that includes written and verbal collaboration with peers, suppliers and customers. Speaking in a clear way that develops trust and understanding, provides a sense of confidence to the listener and builds relationships.
- Strong analytical problem solving skills that can quickly assess a situation, establish possibly solutions and execute a best possible option. Ability to think quickly, employ sound judgement and take timely action is a must.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:

- Frequently required to stand, walk, sit.
 - Frequently requires sitting utilizing a mouse to perform computer aided design activities.
 - Occasionally works near moving mechanical parts when in the manufacturing environment.
 - While performing the duties of this job, the noise level in the work environment is usually quiet with occasional exposure to the manufacturing environment.
 - Specific vision abilities required by this job include: ability to adjust focus, depth perception and close vision to a monitor while conducting computer aided design.
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