# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTORY PAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword by Joe Bush, Editor The Manufacturer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognising Talent, by Jason Birtwistle, Jam Project Solutions</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judging Panel</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judging Criteria</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What it means to be a member of The Manufacturer Top 100</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pledge</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## THE MANUFACTURER TOP 100 2021

16-48

Sponsored by:

[Logo of JAM Project Solutions]

[Logo of Cranfield University]
WHY? We first had the idea for The Manufacturer Top 100 in 2013. There was a growing recognition in academic studies and parliamentary reports that there was a lack of visible role models in the industry.

WHAT? The Manufacturer Top 100 was our response. We wanted to provide a showcase for the most inspiring individuals in industry, to illustrate the enthusiasm and commitment present in modern manufacturing and to underscore the exciting, well-paid and rewarding careers that exist in the sector.

WHO? These 100 individuals have been nominated by customers, team members, by the leaders and the led, from shop floor to top floor. They are among the very best UK manufacturing has to offer. And given the brilliance of modern manufacturing in this country, that is really saying something.

Out of the 100 judged to have made the cut, 20 have been highlighted as Exemplars, people who make a truly exceptional contribution to the sector every day.

WHAT’S NEXT? All 100 are catalysts for change. They strive for innovation, the newest technologies and pioneering business models. They acclimatise, pivot and plunge forward as the markets and competition around them evolve. They are the driving force behind the country’s manufacturing renaissance, and to understand their journeys is to understand why it is truly exciting to be manufacturing in Britain today.
Welcome to The Manufacturer Top 100 2021.

In countless ways the last 18-months has been, to put it mildly, a slog. Between lockdowns and other covid related fallout, the unfolding reality of our post Brexit relationships with Europe, and wider geopolitical tensions besides, it feels like the country has had everything but the kitchen sink thrown at it.

And manufacturing has had its own particular set of challenges – from crippling supply chain disruption to the energy crisis.

But warehouses could be filled with rueful thought pieces on the impact of the pandemic. To bring it up here is simply to highlight that even in challenging times – perhaps especially in challenging times – it’s important to celebrate industry success. And more specifically for these awards, the success of individuals. Company success is after all just the combined result of consistent personal achievements – from the board room to the factory floor.

The Manufacturer Top 100 therefore looks to reflect the entirety of this spectrum – this isn’t a list of the biggest budgets, the highest revenues, or the longest careers. It recognises those starting out in their career as much as those that have already achieved greatness.

We do this by dividing the 100 finalists into six categories: Bold Investor in New Markets, Driver of Cultural Change, Innovator, Inspiring Leader, Unsung Hero, and Young Pioneer. Nominated by their peers and judged by an expert panel, the 100 people in these pages represent the very best of the UK manufacturing industry. And for those that have demonstrated particularly impressive achievements, our judging panel chose 20 for a special recognition – we call them ‘Exemplars’.

They, like everyone listed here as part of the Top 100, prove, day after day, what remarkable people work in our manufacturing sector.

For the winners, please take time to read ‘The Pledge’ on what it means to be a Top 100 and the contributions we ask you to make as a member of this community.

Finally, many congratulations to every one of you on this great accolade, it is thoroughly well deserved and I speak for all of us at The Manufacturer and our Judging Panel when I say we are all proud of your achievements in making manufacturing in the UK the innovative and forward looking sector it is today – in what has been one of the most challenging times we can remember.

Joe Bush
Editor of The Manufacturer
published by Hennik Research
2021 has not been an easy year for many – both personally and professionally. However, there have been many huge successes / votes of confidence within UK manufacturing including, but most definitely not limited to, significant investments from multinational automotive and defence businesses, ever increasing green investment, and being at the forefront of robotic and battery technology. There’s no denying there’s going to be challenges ahead for the UK – now is not the time or place to write about them though as The Manufacturer Top 100 is a celebration of what is great about UK manufacturing. However, you only need to read about this year’s 100 new members of the Top 100 to know the UK is in safe hands!

The Top 100 is in its 8th year so, including this year’s cohort, there are now 800 members of this unique community of manufacturing talent. One of my favourite features of the Top 100 is that it recognises all types of UK manufacturing hero including our world class leaders, our genius innovators, our brave investors searching for new markets and our drivers of cultural change, right through to two categories that can be missed in other awards but are equally important – Unsung Heroes and Young Pioneers.

As with previous years, it was brilliant to see so many people take their time to nominate their colleagues – shortlisting down to 100 was a huge challenge and to choose the 20 Exemplars was even harder – anybody mentioned in The Top 100 this year could have been an Exemplar!

A personal thank you to all of you who took the time to either apply themselves or nominate somebody as without you doing this there would be no Top 100. I urge everybody who is reading this to pick their phone up now and put the following reminder in your diary for 2022 – “Who can I nominate for The Manufacturer Top 100”

JPS would like to thank The Manufacturer for the opportunity to be involved with the Top 100 – in our opinion it truly is one of the best awards programme somebody within manufacturing can be nominated for. Therefore we’d like to extend our huge congratulations to all those featured in the Top 100 this year and we look forward to meeting the 2021 cohort in Liverpool.
JUDGING PANEL

Will Bridgeman
Chairman
Warren Services

Nigel Fine
Chief Executive
Institution of Engineering and Technology

Chris Greenough
Chief Commercial Officer
SDE Technology

Dan Kirkpatrick
Director and Head of Customer Success
JAM Performance Solutions

John Ahmet Erkoyuncu
Professor of Digital Engineering
Cranfield University

Carl Perrin
CEO
Institute for Future Transport & Cities

Sam Turner
Chief Technology Officer
High Value Manufacturing Catapult

Jan Ward CBE
Founder
Corrotherm International

James Selka
Chief Executive Officer
MTA

Bill Williams
Chief Executive
CEME
JUDGING CRITERIA

**Inspiring Leader**
An inspiring leader who has created wealth for and created stable employment at a UK-based manufacturing firm, while remaining committed to investing in developing the value of their manufacturing business through people, processes and technology.

**Bold Investor in New Markets**
Someone who has been courageous in finding new markets, increased revenue by venturing overseas and helped reshape one or multiple markets by providing a new and competitive business model involving UK manufacturing.

**Driver of Cultural Change**
An individual who has helped to alter popular perceptions about manufacturing locally or nationally, inspiring young people, women and minority groups or has influenced government to help make conditions better for manufacturing in the UK.

**Unsung Hero**
Someone who is instrumental in facilitating the success of those around them and the success of the business as a whole. They are the constants that provide support and knowledge both downwards and upwards within the professional hierarchy.

**Young Pioneer**
A person who has made an impact disproportionate to their years, providing inspiration for the future of manufacturing in the UK.

**Innovator**
Someone who embraces change in order to improve outcomes, and who is able to bring their team along with them. They constantly seek to improve products, processes and/or team-work in service of the customer and the business.
The Manufacturer Top 100 alumni are representative of everything that is brilliant and inspiring about UK manufacturing.

To be part of it means that someone, either within your company or outside, considers you to be an outstanding role model for the young people we all want to encourage into careers in our sector. It is an acknowledgment of your past achievements and a signpost to your future success.

Such a very public endorsement of your qualities can have significant career implications for you going forward.

As part of this elite community, you are entitled to the following courtesy benefits from The Manufacturer:

- Lifetime VIP passes to The Manufacturer Summit events whilst directly employed within a manufacturing role
- Lifetime complimentary subscription to The Manufacturer magazine whilst directly employed within a manufacturing role
- You are invited to join The Manufacturer Community (www.community.themanufacturer.com) TOP100 Alumni Club. This is the place to connect with your peers and stay in touch with The Manufacturer.
What we look for in turn is a sign of the deepening commitment to the sector that being a member of The Manufacturer Top 100 implies. We therefore ask you to make some, if not all, of these contributions.

**THE PLEDGE**

Pay it forward – nominate two individuals for The Manufacturer Top 100 2022

Share your story – write an article for The Manufacturer or agree to be interviewed

Be an active member of our community (community.themanufacturer.com) – also join us at one of The Manufacturer’s events, or even better, take a speaking slot

Close the skills gap – become a STEM ambassador or help a colleague to do so

Showcase brilliant UK manufacturing – open your factory doors to schools, universities and the local community

Shape industry coverage – join The Manufacturer’s Editorial Advisory Board

Future-proof your business – employ an apprentice

Recruit the right talent at school age – host a stand at a careers fair

Now, turn the page to meet The Manufacturer Top 100 2021
Elwyn Agnew
Engineering Director
PAC Group

I was an amateur entrepreneur from an early age, selling BMX parts and making my own board games, which got me thinking about mass production. I wanted a rewarding job where I could make things people could appreciate. Part of my current role is to bring out the best in people and give them the confidence they need to promote their ideas. Young people who are prepared to take risks, try things, and play with ideas will shape the future. I’ve been developing hot drape formers for the carbon composite industry for 15 years. We’ve created parts that others said were impossible, in a fraction of the predicted time. In 2021, we won the Queen’s Award for Enterprise for Innovation.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Hydrofoils. Like underwater wings for boats, these allow slow sailboats to fly above the surface of the water very quickly. It has transformed the sport of sailing and could revolutionise transport.

Helen Anderson
Head of Business Improvement & Systems
CPI, TMD Technologies

I am a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with a wealth of experience gained within product development and manufacturing environments across Consumer Electronics, Telecoms, Management Consultancy, Pharmaceutical and Defence sectors and now work at the global industry leader of microwave equipment for Commercial and Defence applications. In my role, I provide strategic vision, leadership, and technical experience to drive technology, process and culture business change and transformation. The opportunities to have a fulfilling and continually evolving career in manufacturing, that also shapes the future, have never been greater.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I met the Dalai Lama in a lift.

Phill Allen
Managing Director
ALLpaQ Packaging

I formed ALLpaQ as a result of being made redundant; having developed plastic totes over a three year period, I was driven to continue along this path. Helping our team develop their careers drives me to grow the company further. When setting up ALLpaQ, I had no experience or support. I am very proud to now be a Director of two businesses encompassing four production sites. The support and commitment from my wife and fellow Director is a daily inspiration. As a UK manufacturer we are extremely proud to be a key supplier into COVID-19 vaccine producers, and have experienced and managed a four-fold increase in company profile in the last 20 months.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Master a second language and an instrument, have confidence in your choices and find your own path.

Neelofar Ansari
Senior Manufacturing Engineer
BAE Systems

I started my career as a Graduate Engineer and eventually moved into a manufacturing team in the Air sector to work with collaborative technologies and work more closely with production. I love that my job brings new challenges daily with the complexity of developing new upcoming technologies to make manufacturing processes more efficient, reduce waste and improve quality whilst considering the security implications and applying protocols to ensure data segregation and safety regulations are upheld when deploying these technologies. It is important for me to inspire new Engineers and I look for opportunities to promote and teach STEM subjects. I believe building young peoples confidence in STEM subjects is key to attracting them to STEM jobs.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I love to teach and have been a tutor for varying age groups for over 10 years.
Lee Aston
Manufacturing Manager
PP Control and Automation

I enjoy manufacturing. I have a passion for leading people and watching them develop and grow. Getting results in faced paced environments is what I love doing each day. Don’t let your inexperience stop you.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
I would love to be a property developer.

Gerard Bartley
Data Management & Governance Consultant
Gerard Bartley Consulting

It isn’t possible for manufacturing businesses to report, analyse, control, produce or forecast without good data. Everything we do is reliant on it. IT systems have their place, but it is people that drive good data and my focus has always been to put those people at the heart of data management and governance. The highlight in each of my roles has been setting up data management teams, recruiting and training and then motivating them to change the business they work in, particularly the younger team members. I’m equally proud of my conference speaking and chairing, sharing my experience and also supporting new speakers on their journey in the data world.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I (willingly) traversed into the deep, dark depths of a volcano’s magma chamber (it was dormant at the time!)

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
David Attenborough’s personal assistant.

Tanya Ashton
Head of Sustainability - Europe
Walgreens Boots Alliance

I’ve spent the majority of my working life manufacturing ever more sustainable food with Associated British Foods. Recently I moved into the Health and Wellbeing sector with Walgreens Boots Alliance. During this time, I’ve saved more than 120,000 trees being felled from unsustainable sources, shifted 7,500 tonnes of paper to FSC certified, increased responsible sourcing of high-risk food commodities to 95%, reduced factory carbon emissions by 30%, and reduced food miles for just one customer by 230,000 - enough to fly them to the moon! I couldn’t have achieved a single one of these things without the support of colleagues who were willing to try something different.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Like Dory from Finding Nemo says: “Just keep swimming”. It’s a journey and perseverance pays off.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Toast Beer - tastes fantastic and made from surplus/waste bread (replacing the traditionally used virgin barley). Genius.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I (willingly) traversed into the deep, dark depths of a volcano’s magma chamber (it was dormant at the time!)

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
David Attenborough’s personal assistant.
Sam Belk
Asset and Reliability Engineer & Operational Maintenance Plant Shaper
BMW (UK) Manufacturing

I started my career with BMW as an apprentice nearly 15 years ago and I’ve spent all my time in the Assembly Maintenance Department. I get a real sense of achievement when solving problems, either simple or complex, and there are many opportunities for this in maintenance, whether they arise from technical malfunctions or planned facility repairs and improvements. Innovation and digitalisation projects now make up most of my role, I’m currently responsible for implementing a number of harmonised processes that cover all responsibilities that maintenance departments across the group have. MINI Plant Oxford is the first plant in the roll out plan and I am proud to be a part of the project!

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
I am a big fan of the Adidas 4D Trainers. This is mainly due to the fact that they have implemented additive manufacturing into a consumer product to deliver an improvement in performance.

Nigel Bell
Quality Assurance & Environmental Manager
BMP Europe

I never started out to go into manufacturing, or indeed QA work, but after 28 years in a QA role, I’m really glad I followed this path. Being involved from ideas, through development, to production and then seeing it leave as a finished product still gives me the same buzz it did when I started out. I am proud I started my career on the shop floor and have worked up to my current position. Being asked to lead QMS projects in both China and Malaysia and helping to set up production lines in these plants was an honour and achievement. We all have work to do as individuals, but the backbone and strength of any operation is team work.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Be more confident in your own ability, you’re not always going to get everything right, believing in yourself is important.

Kate Black
Chief Technology Officer
Meta Additive

I am a multidisciplinary researcher, lecturer, and businesswoman focused on elevating the additive manufacturing industry through chemistry and collaboration. I am a senior lecturer in the School of Engineering at the University of Liverpool and co-founded Meta Additive in 2019. Meta Additive has developed a 3D printing metal and ceramic process which will revolutionise the industry’s capabilities and bring additive manufacturing to the masses. I’m a firm believer that if we are to provide smart manufacturing solutions to tackle the world’s challenges, we need to collaborate with a broad range of disciplines from science right through to the humanities. This mix of expertise will enable innovation to thrive and keep UK manufacturing at the forefront.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
You can do anything you put your mind to.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Lego of course!

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
See my answer to the next question!

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A jazz singer.
Steven Brackenridge  
Robotics and Controls Technician  
Jaguar Land Rover

I have been with JLR for six years where I have adapted to a different industry and engineering mindset from my previous career as an aircraft avionics technician. Since being at the company I have completed a degree in applied engineering and learnt completely new skills such as programming PLCs and robots. I always try to have a can-do attitude and look for ways to make processes more efficient. I get stuck into projects and apply new skills which I have learnt. Some of the projects I have implemented have been condition based monitoring of equipment and automating gap plans to allow space for maintenance activities to be carried out.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I represented the RAF at WorldSkills for aircraft avionics where I competed against other companies and armed services solving electrical and avionic faults on aircraft.

Martyn Brindley  
CNC Engineer  
A&M ED

I started my career as an apprentice and progressed from manual milling to 5-axis CNC operation and CAD programming. I get great satisfaction manufacturing components for a range of sectors. Manufacturing allows me to use my initiative, machining precision aerospace parts in inconel and deep line boring to 400mm on an aluminium block with steel end caps to fit crankshafts for classic car engine blocks. Growing up I was uncomfortable in social situations and had bouts of depression. I have developed my resilience by running and swimming and becoming open about my anxiety. I have championed mental health awareness and helped A&M achieve a Thrive at Work bronze award for promoting employee health and wellbeing.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Don’t let fear of failure dictate your life.

Alex Brandham  
Group Leader – Control Engineering, Joining Technology & Digitalisation  
BMW Group

I am driven by change and really enjoy development of both process but more importantly people. Manufacturing is a fast paced environment and the need for efficiency inspires fantastic solutions. Engineering has always interested me, I’m fascinated by how things work.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
The classic Mini - it really pushed the thinking of how to make the most out of a small space.

Andy Burn  
Principal Technologist  
BAE Systems Land UK

I joined British Aerospace 25 years ago as a graduate recruit and have spent my career formulating, manufacturing and characterising energetic materials. In recent years I have been responsible for identifying, maturing and exploiting a range of transformative manufacturing and product technologies for the Munitions business.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
Something to improve the environment - we’ve only got one planet after all!
Natalie Brown
Procurement Operations Manager
Rolls-Royce

I discovered a career in manufacturing by accident. After undertaking a degree in Architecture, I was recruited into Rolls-Royce to the factory design & layout team. From there, I loved the company and the world of manufacturing so much, I decided to focus my efforts in manufacturing engineering and have never looked back.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Don’t focus so much on where you want to be in the next ten years, life tends to decide for you and can lead you in unexpected directions.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
It has to be the TXWB - to see the build of these magnificent engines every day inspires me and makes me proud of myself and the company I work for.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I used to play Rugby League for an international team.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
I would be a midwife - the ability to have an impact and a lasting impression on people’s lives every day would make working an easy job.

Chris Burton
Senior Design Engineer
Lontra

I have a wide engineering background covering military aircraft maintenance and design, bomb disposal, robot design and testing, vehicle drivetrain design and aircraft wheels and brake design. Now I’m fortunate enough to be part of an incredible team at Lontra designing the next generation of Blade Compressor. I work closely with UK manufacturing and strive to design better parts and products by listening to suppliers feedback and using their experience in future designs and updates. I love designing parts in 3D then having the finished parts in my hand and putting them together for a perfect fit. I’m able to 3D print plastic parts at home and enjoy teaching my children to design and print their own parts.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Challenging engineering problems can be overwhelming sometimes, just break them down into small parts and never be afraid to ask for help.

Neil Cameron
Section Manager Machine Shop
TSP Workington

I started my career in 1978 with a four year apprenticeship as a horizontal borer when we were owned by British Steel. In the years that followed I’ve worked on various machines and products from nuclear flasks to jumbo casters, from submarine doors to gas turbines. I moved up to supervise the machine shop and produce lift plans for the whole site ranging from small items to large items over 100Ton and I am now Section Manager in the machine shop. The challenge in the sector is attracting people and training them, and there is no quick solution. Away from work, I lead an active life, playing rugby until the age of 52, and now I follow my son who plays.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Don’t hold yourself back. You can be as good as others who have gone before you.
Marco Chacin  
Principal Robotics Engineer  
Airbus

Inspired by Japanese mecha anime in the early 80s, I went on to complete B.S. and Master degrees in Electronics Engineering and Control Engineering with a concentration in Robotics in 1999 and 2001 respectively. In 2003, I moved to Japan to pursue a PhD degree in Aerospace Engineering (Space Robotics) under the sponsorship of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology. Since 2007, I have had numerous roles in Robotics and Automation: Toyota Motor Corporation (Robotics Researcher), Cyberdyne Inc (Senior Researcher), KUKA Robotics (Application Engineer), Aerotech (Applications Manager), and MathWorks (Robotics Industry Manager). In 2018, I moved to the UK to take on the role of Principal Robotics Engineer at Airbus.

**If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?**
I would be designing and building space robots for planetary exploration.

Nigel Clarke  
CEO  
Morgan Innovation & Technology

I lead a dedicated team of experts to develop new products that have a significant positive impact on society. We work with highly talented inventors to develop their products, supporting them with expertise in electronic engineering and providing services from R&D to bringing products to market. Over the years we have launched a range of products from pain relief machines to anti-snoring devices and sophisticated diagnostic technologies. I’m hugely proud of our achievements in manufacturing innovation, including our two Queen’s Awards for Enterprise.

**What advice would you give to your younger self?**
Enjoy life even more and grasp every opportunity and experience, and buy shares in Apple!

Andy Corteen  
Operations Director  
Adder Technology

I am driven to do the very best I can in any walk of life, and enjoy nothing more than seeing a product, idea, system or team come together, whether that be the world leading KVM products that Adder invents, designs and manufactures here in the UK, the information systems and processes we use to achieve that, the fantastic team we have, or the technology world in general. Underpinning all of this is my passion for making technology work as imagined, and seeing it deliver a useful purpose. The journey from idea to product to manufacture is fascinating and rising to the many challenges on that journey has always been the draw for me.

**What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?**
Current generation DSLR cameras - they embody clever ideas and solutions from electro-mechanicals to topics to electronics to software, and in use deliver all of that with every picture taken.

Suresh Daniel  
Director Data and Architecture Integration  
Coats

It’s inspiring to bring data into life. Today’s digital world runs on data. For a manufacturing organisation to keep pace and be competitive, their core business data should be accurate, compliant, and readily available across the enterprise. Data assets that do not have a book value, can be covered into currency or competitive advantage.

**What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?**
EcoVerde - 100% recycled, precisely engineered to create durable and attractive thread seams.
**Anita Davenport-Brooks**  
People, Culture and Compliance Manager  
Lander Automotive

I have the opportunity within Lander to be involved in developing and building the future strategy for the business. I have a passion for people development and I am proud of our apprenticeship and people development programmes which have received lots of external recognition and awards. Supporting people to achieve more than they expected they could, no matter what their background or ability, really inspires me. I am the Regional Chair for the West Midlands Apprenticeship Ambassador Network and have met passionate and dedicated people supporting apprenticeships in lots of different organisations. I was excited and honoured to be the winner of the Skills Champion award this year from Enginuity.

**What advice would you give to your younger self?**  
Never give up, know that you can achieve so much more with perseverance. If you fail, try again, treat it as a learning experience because sometimes you learn more from failure than you do success.

**What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?**  
3D printers, they amaze me. They can be used in the home by ordinary consumers and they are used by organisations to produce components/spare parts/new products and even buildings.

**An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.**  
I am a qualified NLP Practitioner and Clinical Hypnotherapist. I help my clients to reduce anxiety, stress, anger and other issues.

**If you weren't in manufacturing what would be your dream job?**  
I would love to run a retreat (for stressed executives). No phones, no internet. Just peace and rest.

---

**Katy Davies**  
Managing Director  
CamdenBoss

I am incredibly passionate about manufacturing across its vast range of industries from food production to engineering. I am constantly enthralled by how my teams capture customer requirements, create an engineered solution and build it from a seemingly benign array of components and materials into something beautiful and functional that you may see or use every day! I’m so proud to be part of the manufacturing sector and my aspiration is to use my love of enabling great people and what I’ve learnt from my career in finance, food & agriculture, aerospace and lean manufacturing to lead a great manufacturing business that similarly inspires others about what can be achieved behind those roller shutter doors.

**What advice would you give to your younger self?**  
Don’t sweat the small stuff - it’s not worth the energy!

**What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?**  
The CamdenBoss Hex Box of course! If it had to be a non-CamdenBoss product I would say the Land Rover Defender.

**An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.**  
I once ran 16 miles of a marathon with a broken foot.

**If you weren't in manufacturing what would be your dream job?**  
A foreign desk reporter.
Tom d’Arcy
Innovation Lead
Rolls-Royce

I entered manufacturing seven years ago at the age of 18 mainly attracted by the opportunity to learn whilst working during an apprenticeship. Since then I’ve been hugely lucky to work on some really exciting projects throughout Rolls-Royce, leading teams, acquiring manufacturing capability and driving change through various parts of our organisation. I’m passionate about accelerating digital and technology transformation within UK manufacturing and feel really privileged to be working in the cutting edge of manufacturing on a daily basis in my current role.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
I think currently it has to be SpaceX’s Starship rocket. The pace with which they develop cutting edge technology is just astounding and an example to all within manufacturing as to what can be done.

John Edmondson
Business Director
McMenon Engineering Services

From an early age it was clear my future would be in a steel-related industry. I remember watching the testing of a Nuclear Transport flask on TV in the 80s and my father and brothers had been involved in the manufacture of the Test Nuclear Flask. An apprenticeship followed and the breadth and depth of this training in welding, fabrication and materials is the foundation of everything I do today. We must pass on knowledge and inspire the next generation of skilled engineers as I was inspired. It gives me huge pride when I see some of the attributes that I have learned and been taught over the past 38 years being applied to others’ daily activities. My daughter has followed my path and is now a fully qualified Nuclear Welding Inspector.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Have confidence and self belief in your capabilities and knowledge, and work with people in respectful collaborative manner.

Nigel Davies
Director of Technical and Sustainability
Muntons and Maltdoctor

I am passionate about making sustainability practical and cutting through the barriers that delay us getting on with climate protection. I founded Maltdoctor, a Sustainability and Manufacturing support consultancy building on my Expert Witness legal guidance consultancy. I am also a Scientific Advisory Board member for Ateria Health, a business promoting animal nutrition and health; a Senior Advisor, Technical Services for First Key, a consultancy specialising in Malting, Brewing and Distilling; a Director of Technical & Sustainability at Muntons; and an Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham. I enjoy demystifying complex debates on climate change in agriculture and connecting food supply chain partners together, helping them recognise they can work better together to make a bigger impact.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Be more aware of your ability to effect change.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Malted ingredients.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I am a First Responder.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A General Practitioner.
Oliver J H Evans  
Sales Director  
Oxera Repair Products

In 1994, I started as a sales rep for a manufacturing company and eventually became Head of Sales before my business partner and I set up Oxera Repair Products in 2009. I think when we look at a sales function, we only really have a few things in our armoury, namely the company that we represent, the products that we sell and the personality of who we are as people. I have always enjoyed building meaningful long-term business relationships, and providing solutions to any issues our clients might have. Our core values are so important to us and it’s vital that we live up to those on a daily basis and it’s what drives our business forward and aids business development and growth.

An interesting fact about myself that not many people know.
I volunteer for Sports Chaplaincy UK, a national charity which provides a listening ear and support to elite and non-elite sports people and I’m currently the chaplain at Bradford City.

David Forrest  
Senior Engineer Digital Innovation  
Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK

I have a passion for innovation in the manufacturing domain, particularly around digital solutions. Supporting my team to extract significant benefit from data that would normally be lost, using cutting edge solutions and seeing their skill sets and knowledge grow is a real joy. Following my father’s footsteps into the world of engineering was never in doubt and the current growth in UK manufacturing technology and excellence proves it was a wise career choice 30 years ago. My career saw me start as a maintenance apprentice, grow as a production engineer, becoming a CAD/CAE expert, along with roles in IT to now where I help steer the team in the challenging and rewarding world of digital manufacturing.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
Working in an outdoor activity centre for disabled children and adults. My son attends one of these centres and the joy it brings him and his friends is heart warming.

Richard Fell  
Production Manager  
McMenon Engineering Services

I started my journey 21 years ago as a young 17 year old apprentice welder, with a passion for engineering and manufacturing. During my apprenticeship I developed my skills in welding and fabrication on a range of high integrity instrumentation products. In the early stages of my career, my employer acquired the Torbar Flowmeter business and I was promoted to the position of team leader taking responsibility for transferring the manufacture of the Torbar product to the Workington factory. From that position I was promoted to Welding Manager and in 2018 to my current position as Production Manager. I am proud of the achievements of my team supporting major instrumentation infrastructure projects to over 50 countries across the globe.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Focus on one thing at a time to reach your goal, you can have it all in life but not all at once.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
The Torbar averaging flow meter, a simple product available in a variety of different sizes and materials to meet the customer’s specification in differential pressure measurement.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
To be an airline pilot travelling the world, seeing new places, meeting new people and experiencing different cultures.
David Fryer
Transformation Director Digital Procurement Excellence
Rolls-Royce

I’ve worked at Rolls-Royce for about 14 years mostly in strategic purchasing roles. We have absolutely fantastic people in our business but sometimes our systems let us down. I’m delivering a significant (£21m) digital transformation project (DPEX) and I absolutely love it, it’s definitely where I see my future heading.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I’m an avid DJ with a huge record collection with a regular show on Cutters Choice Radio (DJ Devil Fish.)

Bertille Gleize Wheeler
Manufacturing Director
Gü Indulgent Foods

Coming from a family of law professionals, a career in manufacturing was a bit of an odd choice, however from the day I set foot in a factory after graduating in Chemical Engineering, I knew it was the career for me. I’ve always enjoyed the buzz of factory life and the sense of achievement that comes from seeing the results of your efforts. If I have to pick a career highlight, it would be realising the dream of building a factory from scratch and then running it. In my current role, whilst I am still at my happiest on the factory floor interacting with our production teams, I really enjoy the breadth in my job and the opportunity to work closely with colleagues from all other functions.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Trust your instincts and if something feels right, give it a go. If it doesn’t work out, you will have learnt a valuable lesson.

Chris Fielden
Supply Chain Director
Innocent

I run the supply chain for innocent drinks, and I’m responsible for everything from sourcing, manufacturing, distribution, and technical affairs. I’m also responsible for establishing innocent’s first manufacturing facility, a world leading carbon neutral plant in the Netherlands. I originally trained as a Mechanical Engineer but throughout my 20 year career I’ve worked in all aspects of manufacturing and supply chain from shift operations, engineering, logistics and even finance! I’m passionate about sustainability and how businesses should balance both people, planet, and profit. I’m keen to make sure that people know about and understand the great industry that is present in the UK and see it as a career destination of choice.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Don’t be so hard on yourself when things don’t go to plan. Failure is an important part of learning.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Heat pumps, they’ve been around for years in our home fridges but I genuinely believe they are the future of how we’ll use energy in industry.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I’m dyslexic which I always thought was a problem but as I’ve developed, I’ve realised is a huge strength as it often means I can bring a different way of thinking or a different view to a situation.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
Something outdoors, probably a running guide and using that as a way to travel the world.
Wayne Glover
Managing Director
Nuaire

I started as an apprentice and have worked in many roles from technical, manufacturing, commercial and sales & marketing before I became Managing Director of the business. I have always aspired to learn and pass on my knowledge to others, setting up an apprentice scheme which has seen many of those apprentices go on to achieve so much, including one becoming Manufacturing Director. Manufacturing has always excited me from a young age when I first had Meccano and Lego allowing me to create my ideas and this has carried on through my career. UK manufacturing is at the forefront and we as a country need to invest to make sure we maximise the young potential we have in the country.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Keep learning and expanding your knowledge as it will allow you to achieve your ambition but also pass on your knowledge to others.

Ben Goodare
Head of Sustainability
Renishaw

I have always worked in-house for manufacturing companies within the sustainability teams. I love how manufacturing and sustainability work hand-in-hand to achieve more with lower and lower impacts. Our manufacturing teams have an increased production with a 72% reduction of GHG emissions over the past five years.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I hold a degree in extreme sports and geography.

Kirsten Goddard
Financial Director
ALLpaQ Packaging

I am inspired by the passion our Managing Director, Phill Allen, has and the company culture. The hard work and dedication of our amazing team has allowed us to meet the demand triggered by COVID-19. When I first started working for ALLpaQ I realised how much support was needed and knew I could be much more useful. Starting as Finance Assistant, then promoted to Office Manager, then CFO and I am now FD and co-owner. Despite 30 years in finance this is the first time I can truly say I love my career and look forward to going into work.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
The ALLpaQ 500L Rigid. Our client, a manufacturer of COVID-19 vaccines, gave us a tight lead time to deliver a cleanroom solution that was clinical and hygienic. Our team fabricated it in just eight hours in virgin plastic, using flat PP sheets to minimise delivery space and cost requirements.

Paul Gosling
Chief Technology Officer
Thales UK

I am an expert in sensor systems, particularly sonars. I have been involved in most of the big new sonar developments for the Royal Navy for the last 30 years. As CTO I am now working to bring advanced new technologies like AI, autonomy, data analytics and eventually quantum into our future systems. I have always been attracted to technical roles and the challenge of being able to take advanced technologies from the lab through to manufacture.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
For Thales I am particularly proud of our 2087 sonar system fitted to a number of frigates. More widely I think the iPhone is a great product.
David Hamilton  
Engineering Manager  
Bakkavor Foods  

I love the “challenge of change” and relish the opportunity to lead people through changes that deliver a lasting benefit to their own personal development, as well as the delivery of step change efficiency and profitability for the companies I work for. I have had a career that has spanned several sectors, companies, and teams, all of which I have left with tools, techniques and strategies that have allowed them to innovate and grow. Embrace, innovate, communicate and lead are words that both the teams I have developed and I live by.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.  
I do a lot of mentoring outside of work to help people in their own journeys, to allow them to learn from my experiences. I intend to leave behind a positive people legacy that has delivered new business leaders, innovators and engineers who add to the development of new techniques and technologies.

Hossam Haridy  
Senior Product Manager Digital Services (IOT) – Industry 4.0  
Zumtobel Group  

I am a change leader, driver and enabler who’s obsessed with delivering smart, sustainable and digital solutions that have a real impact on both customers and businesses. I have diverse experience in digital transformation, agile transformation, design and implementation of manufacturing systems, Industry 4.0 and Product Development. I have worked in both tech and manufacturing industries and I thrive in an environment of unusual challenges, risk-taking and strong leadership that empowers people.

What advice would you give to your younger self?  
Everything is going to be alright.

Jo Hartnell  
Tunnel Quality Engineer  
Balfour Beatty  

As a proud and passionate Tunnel Engineer my greatest pride is carving a path into the construction industry. As a student I identified that underground infrastructure solutions were vital to accommodating increasing urban population growth alongside climate adaption. I was committed to pursuing this vocation. Today, I am a celebrated young Tunnel Engineer who constantly strives to exceed expectations and demonstrate that early career professionals can enact positive change. As a proactive young professional, I relish the opportunity to step outside my comfort zone and strive to be an ambassador for the construction industry by dispelling misconceptions and highlighting the benefits of greater workplace diversity.

What advice would you give to your younger self?  
The mantra that has, and continues to inspire me, is: “You acting small doesn’t help anyone”. As a result, we should all seize every opportunity, believe in our ability to enact positive change and recognise the value of our contributions in each and every situation.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.  
Alongside striving for personal professional excellence, I am eager to showcase the incredible opportunities afforded by pursuing a career in STEM, especially amongst minority groups, and I’m passionate about inspiring the future pipeline of STEM talent. I therefore am proud to have been recognised as STEM Ambassador of the Year by the Institution of Civil Engineers in 2021.
Thomas Hassett
Project Engineer
Olympus

My first job was working on the Fast 40 circuit fibre racing yachts on the Isle of Wight doing custom carbon fibre work. I then completed my degree and started at Princess Yachts as a Manufacturing Engineer, which involved moving one of the main Super Yacht Production lines to a new factory. I then worked in Oxford for Lentus making carbon fibre propshafts for formula E racing cars and working with stakeholders in China making energy recovery systems. Then here I am! I moved for a more rewarding take on life with medical products at Olympus in Plymouth.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I broke my front teeth windsurfing in the remnants of Hurricane Bertha.

Hannah Hill
Transformation Project Leader
Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies

I am currently leading the Lean Driven Operations project at FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies (FDB). The project seeks to create efficiencies across manufacturing and improve quality of batches by introducing an electronic batch record system and lean ways of working to three sites across the global FDB network – transforming the way we currently work. I understand the pain and risks associated with a clunky paper system, so my main motivation on this project is making lives easier for everyone working in manufacturing. The best thing about manufacturing at FDB is that you will never get the same day twice. There are always problems to solve, opportunities for continuous improvement projects and new ideas generated by the team.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I am colour blind, which is pretty uncommon in girls. My naming and choosing of colours can sometimes be “interesting” to others!

Chris Herzog
Senior Data Scientist
Mars

I am a Senior Data Scientist within the Mars Digital Technologies organisation, which is a dedicated central capability to drive the digital transformation of Mars. In this organisation, I lead a team of data engineers, scientists, and full stack developers to deliver projects across R&D, Consumer and Manufacturing. Within these, I focus on scaling predictive maintenance capabilities, furthering the development of Digital Twins and leveraging computer vision approaches to drive optimisation, efficiency, and quality. I am relentlessly curious, with a need to constantly be learning, exploring, and networking to build up a broad and varied perspective to push the boundaries on the strategic directions taken within Mars.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A professional traveller, there might not be much better than being paid to explore.

Andy Hill
Sales and Marketing Manager
Philadelphia Scientific

Sales and Marketing within the B2B manufacturing sector is a constant and fantastic challenge, and I enjoy getting the best for our customers by making sure our products are easy to understand and access.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Stop hiding underneath the table at parties.
EXEMPLAR

Tom Hollands
Innovation and Technical Director
Raynor Foods

I’m an accomplished food scientist and bold innovator, and I’ve won several inaugural UK industry awards for my innovations, which are all focused on sustainability. Having a natural affinity for systems, I am fascinated by their complexity and how emergent digital technologies can transform the food industry into a long-term sustainable production system. My inspiration to work in manufacturing was first kindled during my time at Manchester Metropolitan University, where I was able to visit several factories. I fell in love with how science, technology and food converge into a factory setting and never looked back! Having worked in UK manufacturing since graduation, I’ve found it to be a very rewarding career and been fortunate to work alongside many inspiring and forward-thinking individuals.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
There is always a tomorrow Tom, don’t try and do everything in one day and also find a mentor!

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
A brick.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I’m an avid Advanced Dungeons and Dragons dungeon master.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A professional Dungeons and Dragons Dungeon Master.

Scott Houghton
Head of Robotics and Automation
BCW Manufacturing Group

My engineering profession began as an electrical apprentice within an automotive company, which led to a permanent position. I found my niche in the applications department, and through the implementation of automated processes I developed my knowledge of Fanuc robotics, PLC programming, technical design and equipment interfacing. I then transitioned into a new company, where I applied my knowledge to ABB robotics equipment utilised within new production lines alongside bespoke equipment I had designed and built. Now as Head of Robotics & Automation at BCW Manufacturing Group I oversee new and existing development company wide. I am currently responsible for the implementation of a new automated production line which will drive the company through leaps of growth.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Tough one, I have got to say the mobile phone. There is no greater benefit than having a handheld device that provides access to all the knowledge of the internet.

Rowena Innocent
Group Head of STEM strategy
Spectris

At Spectris I’m currently spearheading the group’s STEM strategy having led research and product development teams in high tech manufacturing businesses for over 25 years. I’m passionate about building collaborative innovation teams by creating a safe environment to explore and break boundaries. My interest in diversity and inspiring future scientists and engineers began at school and has been close to my heart throughout my career. I’m proud and honoured to be a Trustee of NMITE (a new higher education engineering institute), a fellow of the Institute of Physics and a STEM ambassador. I’m also excited to be supporting the launch of the Spectris Foundation, whose mission is championing equal opportunity for those with a passion for technology and the desire to engineer a better world.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
The Divya 2.0 from The Washing Machine Project - a truly inspiring story about using engineering to make a positive difference to humanity.
Rashitha Jayasekara  
Chief of Digital Manufacturing  
Rolls-Royce

I am passionate about bringing people together to solve industry problems through technology and innovation. I find immense satisfaction in developing and shaping talent at all levels of the organisation. I love the way manufacturing allows people to collaborate and create things. I am proud to be involved with several high-profile digital transformation programs at Rolls-Royce. Particularly, my contributions to the people strategy and the technology standards in digital manufacturing are key highlights. Currently, I lead the Civil Aerospace strategy on artificial intelligence and business intelligence for manufacturing. This has allowed me to see the unique potential of UK manufacturing. With the right skills and infrastructure, the UK can lead the world to be a better and a greener planet.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Never take failure as a bad thing. Fail fast and try again.

Graeme Jones  
Managing Director  
C-Probe Systems

All our developments have been designed to achieve the whole life preservation of structures. The drive to low carbon and net zero has provided a focus to the value of these innovations that is very satisfying to see given the three decades of trying to have this message heard. To see this emerge into a digital manufacturing facility in St Helens brings all the technology to life. We have now seen our products used in Manchester, Liverpool, London, York and New York. The 2007 article by Carl Elefante that declared “the greenest building is the one that already exists” is the mantra that we have made real at C-Probe and gives me personal satisfaction that perseverance can now make this realisable.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
If you have an idea that can change your life and benefit others then believe in it and persevere. If you make it happen, others will come to see.

Daniel Jubb  
Managing Director  
The Falcon Project

I have been interested in rockets from an early age. When I was ten I received a model rocket kit. I launched hundreds of model rockets and then decided that I wanted to make much larger rockets to try to reach higher altitudes. In 1995, my grandfather Sid Guy and I founded The Falcon Project. Between 1996 and 1998 we built and launched a number of rockets from the army ranges at Otterburn, Northumberland. The Falcon Project set up a manufacturing facility and began manufacturing solid propellant rocket motors for commercial and military applications. We also established research programmes into liquid and hybrid propellant rocket engines. The Falcon Project now designs and manufactures custom solid, liquid and hybrid propellant rocket systems at facilities in the US and UK, with applications ranging from mine disposal and target drones to high altitude research rockets.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Keep the faith, you will get there in the end.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
HTP Pump.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I have never taken a driving test.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A Master distiller in a Scottish whisky distillery.
Soraya Karimi-Ghovanglou
Supply Chain Director
Smithfield Foods

I take great satisfaction from not only finding solutions to problems but also bringing new ideas to the table, testing new things out within the industry to improve service and costs. I get inspired by seeing the team around me achieve the successes they set out for themselves and also my family inspire me to be the best I can be. My biggest achievement in life was going from factory floor to Director in under four years.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Have more confidence in your ability, you can achieve anything you put your mind to.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Sidel Bottle blowing machines. It always amazes me how a plastic tube went through a process of forming a bottle in seconds.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I am a direct descendant of the last King of Iran.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
I always wanted to be a criminal lawyer.

Nipuni Karunaratne
Managing Director
IVY TECH

I am the Managing Director of IVY TECH, Digital Technology Manager - Model Factory and the Vice Chair for the Rolls Royce Gender Diversity Network in the UK. I am Charted Engineer and received my MEng in Aerospace Engineering from Brunel University London in 2015. I am passionate about digitalisation and advanced manufacturing technologies. Whilst I work as the Digital Technology Manager - Model Factory at Rolls-Royce I started my own company IVY TECH to develop cutting-edge new manufacturing technologies. I have collaborated in number of government funded R&D projects delivering cutting-edge manufacturing solutions. I’ve always been actively involved in STEM activities and helping the young generation by mentoring, coaching and inspiring and have been a motivational and a STEM panel speaker in many leading events worldwide. In 2019 I was elected as the UK chair for the Gender Diversity Network at Rolls Royce and currently I’m working as the Vice Chair supporting the company in positively changing the working environment to be more diverse and inclusive. My ambition has always been to spread awareness and encourage STEM industries to move away from stereotypes and to value talent. I always thrive to be a role model for career driven women, demonstrating my own experience of being a young female engineer.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Never give up and to be courageous.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Rolls Royce jet engine.
Ricky Jones
Integrated Production Systems Coach
Jaguar Land Rover

I decided to join JLR back in 2015, transitioning from running my own car valeting business, to actually manufacturing the heart of the car, the combustion engine! I have always had a passion for cars and since joining JLR I have always looked at ways we can streamline and improve our processes, and this has led to me co-authoring two research papers in an international conference. As part of my current job role, I am able to coach and mentor individuals on the importance of utilising our Lean Systems and Tools within JLR to help aid us in achieving our business KPIs. I would say my biggest achievement in my career to date is achieving Engineering Technician status with the Institute of Engineering and Technologies.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I really enjoy building my own custom Gaming PCs, as I am a very keen PC Gamer in my spare time!

Hassan Khalid
Data Science engineer
GlaxoSmithKline

Numbers and patterns - controlled chaos - is something I’ve always yearned to understand. Going by the numbers: calibrating, measuring, and planning has been an important part of manufacturing. The earliest recorded story of large-scale manufacturing, the pyramids of Giza, clearly exhibits deep understanding of the processes, tools and the required supply chain. Data science offers an equivalent in today’s world, a window not only towards tighter control of manufacturing, but a sneak peak into the underlying first principles governing critical processes. The manufacturing sector stands to benefit not only from the engineering prowess but also from the world leading machine learning (ML) community in the UK. I think it’s time for manufacturers to think out-of-the-box and embrace ML as a standard practice.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Be patient and embrace the challenge of getting orders out the door. Once you have staff and equipment to do it for you, you will miss it.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
WD40 - this is how we explain to customers how long it can take to create the right product. It’s not WDI, it’s WD version 40. We use this to ensure customers don’t become disheartened during the development process.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I used to compete in amateur boxing and had to stop when I started the business. Due to time restraints and the risk of my nose being broken, which could severely hinder my ability to taste and smell!

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
Research Scientist.

Jake Lavelle
Managing Director
JPL Flavour Technologies

Working in Flavours creates endless opportunities and options for the products we produce. A spark of creativity can ensure we can take on our market leaders and compete with them; in most industries it is rare for an SME to beat a market leader to the punch in quality. This is what drives us to be better every day, to work long hours and give 100% as we know we have opportunities that are not given often. Manufacturing our own product and our own IP is the only way I could imagine running our business. The ability to hold creative control and how we scale up our product is another way to add innovative steps and to differentiate ourselves from the competition.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Going on the shop floor is as important as is understanding the big picture of the business.
Billy Kingsbury
Chief Operating Officer
thyssenkrupp Materials UK

I have over 20 years’ experience in the UK metals distribution sector, including 15 years at thyssenkrupp Materials UK. I became a National Product Manager for Stainless Steel, where I developed extensive knowledge of the steel market and was responsible for both the sales and purchasing strategy. I have advanced in the business through roles such as a Director of Vetchberry Coil Processing division and Commercial Director of the Materials business to now lead the combined Materials and Aerospace business as Chief Operating Officer. I am focusing on driving customer-centricity and sustainability in our company.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I used to be a child actor and model and have appeared in several films and once appeared on TV-AM!

Rebecca Lee-Panton
Change Project Manager
The Fabricon Group

As a Change Project Manager, I focus on continually improving the business, recently creating a digital strategy, and implementing the changes to keep Fabricon ahead of our competitors. One of my projects was to implement a new cloud-based system which allows us to track all elements of the manufacturing process, improving efficiency and productivity. Moving to a process managed by a SFDC system eliminates the need for a paper-based system and enables single entry of data, reduces administrative load on production management and improves quality control. My favourite quote is: “don’t be part of the problem, be part of the solution” and I always try to overcome challenges that present themselves.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
Over the last two years I have designed and developed the first dog home shower - the Incredible Dog Shower. I hope to launch this next year.

Darren Mackintosh
European Project Leader
Mars

Early in my career I realised that I got energy from interacting with people, dealing with complex situations and having a connection to products that I could relate to or enjoyed consuming - Mars fulfils these needs and more! I’ve worked with many talented teams and was PMO for our UK logistics transformation - a Mars-DHL partnership to create two build-to-suit warehouses and reduce our carbon footprint by 16% whilst increasing capacity by 50%. The supply chain and manufacturing sector is entering a critical, yet exciting phase. Rapid advancements in automation, changes in consumer lifestyles and drive for net-zero have only been fuelled by events such as Brexit and COVID-19. I believe manufacturing will be a key component for organisations to remain competitive and relevant in their sector.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
My phone and smart watch. The capabilities, functionalities and machine learning algorithms that are powered by such a small device are mind-blowing.

Sue McCarten
Head of HR and Business Services
TSP Engineering

Starting working life in the 80s, the YTS scheme was one route into industry. I gained a place with the then British Steel Cooperation and my 39-year career began. Working with knowledgeable, skillful and straight-talking people, alongside continuous advances of the business, has given me a wealth of experience and opportunities in a way equal to if I had moved jobs ten-fold. Achieving a Post Graduate Diploma, I’m now Head of HR and Business Services and part of the Senior Management team. I am proud to be part of a business who continue to develop its people whilst recruiting new talent. TSP make some of the biggest impacts across many sectors due to our employees’ talent and hard work.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Believing in your own abilities and go for your goals - what’s the worst that can happen? If you don’t try you will never know what you are capable of.
Alison McGurk
Head of Architecture, Data & Intelligence
AstraZeneca

I am passionate about my role at AstraZeneca because the IT and analytics platforms that my team architect and design play an important role in the manufacturing of life-changing medicines for patients. I started my IT career in consumer goods manufacturing with Unilever - I was attracted to the tangibility of a company who made products that my friends, family and I use every day. After Unilever I worked as an enterprise architect in grocery retail before returning to manufacturing when I joined AstraZeneca. It's been fascinating to swap Marmite, Persil and till systems to learn about pharmaceutical manufacturing, and I am very proud to be AZ's first female Head of Architecture.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Currently it's the titanium metalwork the incredible spinal surgeons have mended my son Josh's back with this year.

Stan McKnight
Turning Engineer
A&M EDM

I'm a turning engineer with 45 years’ experience, I started with manual lathes and developed my CNC turning and programming skills as the technology evolved. I manufactured parts for the first stainless steel widget which transformed the taste of canned Guinness and worked on the torch cauldron for the 2012 Olympic opening ceremony. Manufacturing requires practical cost-effective solutions; this means every day brings different challenges. I have machined components for space missions, moulding tools for an adult entertainment product and parts for a fusion reactor. One of my career highlights was setting up a team of six machines, running 24 hours a day to manufacture ventilator rotary flow valves for the Ventilator Challenge response to COVID-19 in April 2020.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I scored the last goal at West Bromwich Albion's ground, The Hawthorns, before the ground was redeveloped.

John McGurk
Managing Director
JLM Composites

I am a joiner by trade and after leaving my last employed job, I worked as a subcontractor in glazing for commercial projects. In 1996, I got the opportunity to become a distributor for a UK canopy company in Ireland. After seeing the demand for GRP products in Ireland I decided to manufacture but make changes to suit the market and I started manufacturing in 2000. My desire for manufacturing came to the forefront in 2003 after a fire in the factory meant we lost everything but the next day, steps were put in place to start up again. I love to see a job completed on time, within budget and to the high standard required. The key to business is to be honest with customers and suppliers, no hiding behind excuses.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I am sincere and loyal to people around that depend on me. I enjoy creating employment opportunities.

Paul McManus
Environmental Manager
Encirc

I have always been passionate about sustainability which fits perfectly with Encirc, as we aspire to be the world’s most sustainable glass manufacturer. My role’s focus is sustainability and minimising our impact on the environment, both on a local, and wider scale. It’s no secret that one of the main challenges facing manufacturing is energy usage, and I’m currently involved in several exciting projects with a focus on moving towards alternative fuels. I feel privileged to be involved in such positive and innovative changes which can hopefully pave the way to decarbonise not only our business, but the entire industry. These technologies must be where our focus lies if we are to move towards a truly sustainable, carbon neutral future.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Glass bottles! Glass is infinitely recyclable and is the cleanest, most sustainable form of packaging. Another big positive is that it very often comes filled with alcohol!
Stephen Messham
Data Science and Analytics Manager
GlaxoSmithKline

I am passionate about getting safe and effective medicines to patients and working within pharmaceutical manufacturing gives me the opportunity to support the manufacture and distribution of hundreds of millions of doses of medicines to patients across the world. I joined GSK’s manufacturing division with a pharmaceutical science focus but realised very quickly that data was imperative to everything that happened within the industry, so I transitioned into a data science role and I am currently the Data Science and Analytics Manager for one of GSK’s flagship biopharmaceutical manufacturing sites. My role gives me the opportunity to impact how the manufacturing and support functions interact with data, supporting them to simplify and optimise processes and reduce waste.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
As a massive Liverpool FC fan I would love to work within their famed Data Science and Analytics teams. Who wouldn’t want to work with Jurgen Klopp?

David Metherell
Assembly Fitting Team Leader
TSP Engineering

I started as an apprentice fitter, working my way up to becoming a chargehand fitter in the assembly department, then ending up as the team leader to this present day. Working on different projects and the challenges that they produce keeps me very busy and gives me satisfaction when I see the completed item being despatched. One of my personal achievements is my work ethic and excellent attendance record – in my 32 year career, only this year has COVID-19 forced me to take time off. I am inspired seeing apprentices growing and achieving a career in engineering due to my father saying that I should get a trade and I’m sure he is proud of my achievements.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A Michelin starred chef with my own restaurant.

Julia Miles
Integrated Productions Systems Coach
Jaguar Land Rover

I started my career in nursing going on to manage a ward and then went onto social work, in total spending nearly 30 years in the profession. However, I felt I wanted to explore a different career path and with the JLR Engine manufacturing Centre (EMC) opening locally, I decided to explore the opportunities there. I started on the track in the Diesel hall of the EMC as an assembly associate and after a couple of months gaining knowledge about the business and how the different departments worked, I started to think about how I wanted to develop my career. I looked at my existing skills gained from my previous career and which of these would be transferable into roles at the EMC. I spoke to several people in the Integrated Production Systems (IPS) team and they explained about the lean systems and tools and how they are used in the EMC to drive performance. They advised me of the coach role within the team and I felt I had years of relevant people skills in multidisciplinary working, mentoring, training and coaching that would enable me to be a driving force within the team, I just needed training in lean systems and tools. Within the IPS team I am responsible for rolling out lean manufacturing systems and tools, ensuring the systems and tools are being utilised and that adherence is good, as well as collecting and analysing data. I am also responsible for coaching and training all team leaders, process leaders and managers within six cylinder diesel and petrol engine manufacturing. I have also recently completed a level 3 equivalent in manufacturing with the aim of being able to then coach associates through the qualification to assist their development.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Push yourself more out of your comfort zone.
Anna Nicholson
Production Engineer, Trim & Chassis
Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK

I started at Nissan in 2017 as a Graduate Engineer. Since then I’ve been involved in new and current model projects. I’ve enjoyed learning from colleagues and gaining new experiences. After completing a placement in manufacturing, I knew this was where I belonged. One thing I’ve learned from my career so far is that every day is different - there are so many new challenges you can get stuck into which makes it rewarding when you fit all the pieces of the puzzle together. I really enjoy working within a manufacturing environment, and hope other people see how exciting it is too! I’m a STEM ambassador and support young people getting involved in STEM. Manufacturing is such a huge part of the UK’s past, present and future.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I competed at the 2020 Paralympics for Great Britain in the shot put.

Lisa O’Neill
Marketing Director
Watco UK

I’m passionate about what I do. I work hard - for me, for the team I work with and the company I work for. The achievements that I’m most proud of are the ones that always seem like a bit of a slog or when others have told me, I’ll never get it done. There’s nothing like a competitive streak to help fire up determination. I never thought I’d work in manufacturing - it’s been an eye opener in lots of ways. But it’s offered the opportunity to be innovative in a traditional industry, to focus on doing things differently and thinking, “let’s do it, what’s the worst that could happen?”

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
I’d own a bookshop, with a coffee shop out back. I’d spend my days choosing the perfect book for each customer’s mood. And I’d serve it up with a slice of cake.

Laura Nutting
Production Manager
PP Control & Automation

I’m a confident, well mannered individual who faces problems head on and welcomes challenges. I always strive to be the best version of myself in and outside of the workplace to secure a culture that promotes ambition and drive.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
At 20 years old in Majorca I saved a eight year old boy from drowning and made the front page of the local paper and was on the local news.

Jonathan Peedell
Head of Maintenance
Bentley Motors

I’ve been lucky and privileged to be at the forefront of the UK resurgence in manufacturing, working on some the world’s most desirable products - now with a blank canvas to build the maintenance future at Bentley. Every day is different, and we grow more and more ambitious and united towards the goals of a genuine smart factory. It’s challenging, requires bravery, but ultimately powerful, rewarding and exciting! I always wanted to be around cars and I followed in the family footsteps being 3rd generation in the car industry. The world of manufacturing is attractive, with the UK manufacturing some of the world’s most desirable products. Bentley is very much at the forefront of this UK revolution.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I started to fly in my 20s, again it was the lure of the machinery and tech as much as the thrill of flying.
**Stephen Peel**  
**Electrical & Automation Manager**  
**Nestlé**

I’m a seasoned professional who is responsible for electrical and automation for the Nestlé Halifax site. With over 40 years experience in the electrical industry, I bring a broad knowledge and understanding to the business.

**An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.**
I have climbed Mont Ventoux on my bike several times since reaching 50.

---

**Alex Perkins**  
**Manufacturing Technology Lead**  
**BAE Systems**

Once an aspiring product designer, I was drawn to a career in manufacturing and manufacturing technology due to the opportunity to combine cutting edge techniques and tech with the human element and the need to drive cultural change in order to maximise the return from the latest industrial revolution.

My career achievement to date is completing delivery of BAE Systems first connected smart factory. In the next 5-10 years I am expecting manufacturing in the UK to go through a rapid and exciting transformation with unprecedented improvements in productivity and hopefully sustainability.

**What advice would you give to your younger self?**
Take more risks, you’re young and have plenty of time to recover from risky ventures!

---

**Sam Pearl**  
**Site Director**  
**Cranswick Convenience Foods Milton Keynes**

Whilst I’m naturally an ambitious and competitive person who enjoys success as measured in a traditional sense (being first, achieving corporate and personal goals, continual improvement of key metrics), what I really get a buzz from is not what we’ve achieved, it’s how we’ve done it. I have a people-centric approach. I want to train and develop our team to enable them to achieve successes they would at one point have felt to be unattainable. I also deeply believe we have a responsibility to proactively improve the community we operate in and environmental impact we have. The ultimate goal is to serve our people, community and the environment we operate in as well as we do for our customers and shareholders.

**What advice would you give to your younger self?**
If you wouldn’t be proud to tell your grandmother what you have done, don’t do it!

**What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?**  
British Pastrami - it’s delicious!

**An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.**
I was afraid to read aloud at school, as I felt my English literacy was too poor, something which I subsequently worked very hard on!

**If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?**  
A sports scientist working in professional football.
Shaun Pledger
Managing Director
Alloy Fabweld

I am inspired everyday by the people I work with. Having a great culture creates happiness in the workplace which in turn creates fantastic relationships with both my colleagues and customers. With over 30 years’ experience, I know working hard for our customers and making a profit is just the start. Doing this, enables me to support local initiatives such as Steel Warriors and Hashtag Big Smile in South Africa. These projects are changing people’s lives every single day. Modern methods of manufacturing brings the opportunity to offer real sustainable value to challenge thought processes and develop our people. It keeps me truly curious about new ideas and innovation in the world of metal as we lead Modular Construction in the UK.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I hold a world record for designing and manufacturing and helping to ride the world's biggest pedal powered vehicle.

Antony Proctor
Operations Director
Grupo Bimbo UK

We are focused on getting great productivity through involvement and engagement of our people. I am excited by doing a job that can influence a better workplace and get great products to our consumers. Setting the right conditions can create a workplace culture that enables people to have fun by achieving more than we realised was possible. We see this team focus in sports, yet too often it is overlooked at when we get together at work. Through my career I have developed a broad perspective across different functions and businesses, mainly in UK food manufacturing. I passionately believe that Manufacturing Operations gives the opportunity to create engaging roles that will enable the UK to be at the forefront of manufacturing best practice.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Find a job that you might do as a hobby, in a company where you fit.

Juan Posada
Systems Engineer
Berkeley Modular

I am a core Manufacturing Engineer, but I am passionate about the possibilities that new systems are offering for manufacturing. Discovering that now we have “teams” of systems that need to be coached and drilled has opened my eyes to new areas of work and new bodies of knowledge that should be incorporated in our business as usual. I am happy to be working in the digital frontier, taking in new challenges and forever learning. Industry 4.0 is a new journey and I aim to constantly update the required skills to undertake it successfully.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
An economist. I would love to find the way to develop all countries and find the formula to wealth creation.

Phil Rawnson
Managing Director
MRT Castings

I have always been excited to see our components in use in world-leading end-products. That has never been more true than over the past year, when our diecastings were vital for the production of critical care ventilators desperately needed by COVID-19 patients around the world. To respond to this unique crisis, MRT had to triple the size of our business. We recruited and trained new colleagues, invested in and installed major new machine tools, and every day had to find creative solutions to challenges which in any other situation would have seemed insurmountable. It was a great honour to work with a team who were united by a common purpose, and who overcame the odds to make an invaluable contribution to the global response to the pandemic.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Industrial Robots - they are already delivering incredible improvements in manufacturing, but they have so much more untapped potential.
Jerry Redman
Managing Director
Sycamore Process Engineering

I left school at 16 with a handful of CSEs and worked initially within the motor trade. I spent time in other industries including commercial diving and sheet metalwork before embarking as a self-employed welder/fabricator specialising in stainless steel. I joined the business in 2001 and brought a small team with me and the capabilities to fabricate, manufacture and install. I have always been passionate about my work and doing things to the very best of my ability as the business has grown, this still remains the case. My role has changed beyond recognition and having been ‘off the tools’ now for several years I have a day-to-day involvement with operations, health and safety and HR.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
To manage park or wild deer.

David Rippon
Operations Director
Tredewen Springs 2008

I have worked in manufacturing all my professional life from my years in the motor drive and electronics industry through to my career in FMCG, seeing drives and automation in use to achieve amazing results. I didn’t choose a career in automation, it chose me and I’ve never looked back. There is something very rewarding about solving problems with automation and getting the competitive edge by being faster, better or leaner through innovation, rather than compromising on quality.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I love life on a narrow boat.

Louise Reeves
Head of Health, Safety & Environment
Accolade Wines

I’ve been in Health & Safety in manufacturing for 15 years challenging the status quo. I love my job and I’m passionate about creating a positive working culture. I love the interaction with people at all levels from all walks of life and having the opportunity to positively influence and guide others to strive for improvement, making change happen and making a difference. I get a buzz from seeing others do well and enjoy supporting them on their own personal journeys. I thrive on being busy and challenged, delivering results creatively and sometimes in unconventional ways! That twinned with the fast pace and challenges of manufacturing and all of its intricate facets makes it an exciting whirlwind of a place to be.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
You can do anything you put your mind to, never give up.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Wine of course!

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I have a banana phobia!

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A teacher.
Ian Robb
Group CEO
The Vita Group

I left school at 16, gaining an engineering apprenticeship, and supplementing learning over 15 years of night school. Merging my manufacturing interest with the pursuit of knowledge through working abroad, I have lived and worked in the Americas, Europe, MENA and Asia whilst working with advanced materials in the fields of automotive, fire protection, welding, ceramic insulation and flexible foam. This experience has given me insight into what drives and motivates us as individuals and as teams. My most important task as Group CEO includes finding, nurturing, and mentoring our next generation of leaders. I believe as an industry we must prioritise apprenticeships, hands on engineering and management training to ensure continued prominence of manufacturing in the UK.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
The A380. I have spent many days and nights in this plane, great engineering with an amazing safety record.

David Roddis
Subject Matter Expert - Digital Manufacturing
Meggitt

I have 30+ years of manufacturing and engineering experience. I have delivered multiple manufacturing lines and new technologies, from India to Poland and the UK. I love engineering. I really enjoy making a difference. I love solving the problem and I really love that lightbulb moment when someone else ‘gets it’. The “oh wow, I see it now.” Using data to identify issues and new technology to solve problems is a great driver for me.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Find what drives you and make that a career. Always keep learning - courses, education or even just advice.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Tesla.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I played semi professional football for Sutton Coldfield Town.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A life coach.

David Roberts
Plant Manager
SNA Europe

I started in manufacturing purely by chance after coming out of Royal Marine Commando training and wondering what I was going to do next. I was lucky enough to be offered a position at Apollo Metals where I spent 26 fantastic years. For the last eight years, I decided to get a taste of management (I had never really thought I was capable of doing it) and I quickly found out I had a natural ability to get the best out of people. I regret I had not done it earlier, hence my motto, “You will never know what you are capable of unless you try!” My real motivation comes from helping to develop the young talent within our organisations and opening up opportunities for them to express themselves, both as individuals and as part of a team. Manufacturing is currently going through a huge transformation with the adoption of Industry 4.0 and IIoT, however, here within manufacturing in the UK, we need to stop playing at it and start to create core expertise behind the movement otherwise there is a danger of it being just another buzz word!

What advice would you give to your younger self?
You will never know what you are capable of unless you try.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
The A380. I have spent many days and nights in this plane, great engineering with an amazing safety record.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I played semi professional football for Sutton Coldfield Town.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A life coach.
Chris Salisbury
Managing Director
Canvasman

Building this company from scratch and seeing it flourish inspires me to aim for excellence in our workshop, products and the services we provide. I had a few years of experience working at a company manufacturing caravan awnings before I decided to combine my interests in lifestyle boating and manufacturing to pursue my business ambitions. Our dedication and perseverance paid off when we began receiving company awards: in 2015 we won the Business Excellence Award for Best Company Culture and in 2020 we won the Manchester & North West Prestige Award for Canvas Solutions Specialists of the Year. In 2021, we’ve been announced as the finalists of four separate awards. I’m determined to cultivate Canvasman into an example of the potential positive future UK manufacturing has.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I love working with bonsai trees, it’s a very relaxing way to wind down and strive for perfection.

Sam Saunders
Head of Data Strategy & Data Product Management
Dyson Technology

My greatest satisfaction is derived from delivering creative solutions to complex problems. During my career, this has taken the form of product innovation resulting in a handful of international patents, development of product and commercial strategies in high-growth categories, and latterly in the application of data and insights as a core enabler to achieving strategic objectives across a wide range of business functions. I particularly enjoy the endless opportunities in the manufacturing sector to join with specialists - from a vast range of technical backgrounds, geographies, cultures and perspectives - to collaboratively develop solutions and witness their impact and success.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
A linear and predictable career path is appropriate for some, but is not the only way. Be bold to seek out opportunities, challenge the norm, and find your own niche.

David Santos
Automation & Robotics Lead Engineer
Chelton

I’m responsible for developing flexible automation defence projects from scratch, including design, programming and installation using the latest technology on automation and Industry 4.0. Before Chelton, I worked at Collins Aerospace, where I was responsible for automation on two facilities in the UK, two in France and one in Italy. I spent 16 years at Ford Motor Company with assignments in the USA, Brazil and Germany, and was responsible for the installation of more than 600 automation assets on assembly and machining lines.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
Working with the stock market.

Joshua Simpson
Engineering Technician Apprentice
BMW (UK) Manufacturing

When I submitted a drawing of me working on a car to the “When I Grow Up” book for schools at the age of six, I knew I wanted to be an engineer. After loving work experience at MINI Plant Oxford and completing A Levels, I was lucky enough to be offered an Engineering Technician degree apprenticeship. Taking inspiration from engineers in my family, particularly my dad and grandad, I have been trying to push the limits of what is expected of apprentices by independently running my own projects and following them through to the best of my capability, learning along the way. Despite some significant challenges in the industry with the pandemic, suppliers and push for future change, it makes an incredibly exciting time.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Failure is simply an opportunity for learning and perfection is impossible. Having true skill in something is learning how to handle mistakes and problems.
Beth Smith
Programme Manager
BAE Systems

A love of problem solving runs in my family - my Dad is an engineer and he inspired me to want to understand how everyday machines work and ask questions about the world around me. Fast forward to today and I have the privilege to lead the delivery of complex products into the Royal Navy. Every day is different and varied and brings new challenges. I work within an incredibly talented team and together we get to tackle complex engineering problems to develop cutting edge technology and products that deliver real advantage.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
My ZX Spectrum - it inspired my lifelong passion for programming and computing.

Radhika Srinivasan
CEO & Founder
EcoTextura

I'm a mechanical engineering graduate and ex-stockbroker who began redesigning the inefficient protective personal equipment (PPE) I was made to wear during my hospital visits in 2015. I quit my finance job to pursue my innovative PPE business just six months before COVID-19 started. EcoTextura now supplies proprietary, eco-friendly & inclusive-design PPE and fabrics to national public health organisations and numerous establishments from across the world. With years of independent research and knowledge in the PPE development field, I'm so grateful that I was equipped to immediately help during the pandemic, especially to those on the frontline. I'm driven by people and wanting to help those in need by using my technical and engineering skills to find more inclusive solutions to problems.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I love painting and drawing and have my drawings tattooed onto four different people!

Gerard Shields
Managing Director
Printpool Additive Manufacturing

After starting my university career at Lancaster University, studying Physics, Maths, and Chemistry, I discovered Mechanical Engineering for the first time and changed courses to pursue it full-time. After graduating with a 1st Class Master’s Degree, I went into a job using 3D printing and additive manufacturing to help small companies develop new products. I then moved south to work for a product design consultancy in Oxford for a time, before starting my own company. We specialise in manufacturing prototypes using 3D printing technologies, and have had some great success so far, but I'm confident that this is just the beginning! As MD I am responsible for a lot of different things, and I love the variety in what I do from day to day.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Try to be influenced less by what other people are saying and doing. Approaching things in a different way to everyone else is a strength, not a weakness.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
I love a beautifully engineered wristwatch. A perfect fusion of science and art.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I have severe autoimmune disease and had a liver transplant when I was 15 years old.

If you weren't in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
I’d like to run my own restaurant or bakery.

If you weren't in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
I'd like to run my own restaurant or bakery.
Jon Stanley
Operations Manager
Jaguar Land Rover

I’m a big believer and promo[tor of British manufacturing - I’m proud of our people and what can be achieved by working together.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Don’t get older in your head.

Steve Sutcliffe
General Manager Inbound Logistics
Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK

I completed my Bachelor of Science degree at Newcastle University and fell in love with the North East so decided to stay. I rather stumbled into supply chain at the end of my first graduate program job. I worked in supply chain managerial positions before joining Nissan in 2001. Nissan is a unique place to work and highly rewarding as pretty much the benchmark for supply chain standards. I thrive on the challenges of a constantly changing business, not least of which has been the last two years including: Brexit, COVID-19, global vessel delays, the Suez Canal blockage, storms and fires, then more latterly the global semiconductor supply shortages.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
I am a keen DIYer having built four of my own house extensions.

Paul Stockhill
Managing Director
Agenaspace

I always wanted to work with my hands designing and making things. I had a five year apprenticeship and worked my way up, and left age 28 to become a self-employed toolmaker and was the general manager three years later. We specialised in EDM sparking and wire erosion and were one of the first to introduce CNC machines in the area along with CAD design & CAM machining. My career highlights have been parts on the International Space Station, on Mars and being involved in designing and building parts that improved and advanced future manufacturing. My involvement with local education has also been a high point, being part of the team to bring a UTC to Doncaster to produce the future engineers we so desperately need.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A carpenter, making bespoke furniture and bringing the grain to life so it can be appreciated for the life it led.

Allan Thompson
Managing Director
BMP Europe

I have always had a creative desire, motivated by enabling people to shine and in nurturing creative spirit. I started life in production but shortly moved into engineering, whilst working as a technician I completed a HNC and then went on to achieve a First Class BSc (Hons) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management. I managed multi-million pound projects during this time, setting up a range a manufacturing processes and new products. I progressed through the business driven by my passion to encourage people, having held positions including Technical Manager, Technical Director, Operations Director and now Managing Director. My philosophy is to enable people to be happy in what they do and in doing so they will be the best that they can be.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
A Walt Disney Imagineer.
I have been at Megger for seven years during which I have led several innovations in production. When I joined there were three job categories in manufacturing: Operator, Technician and Manager, with no clear system for promotion. With colleagues I introduced a skills matrix to clearly show the pathway to gain new skills and achieve promotion. We also introduced technician apprentice opportunities, fully supported by company funds, so that these people are developed with both industry-specific and Megger-specific knowledge. A bonus scheme was introduced in 2019 which is weighted to pay lower-paid staff a higher proportional bonus. They can earn an additional 6% of basic salary by hitting target KPIs. I also created the PCB Hub Initiative, an investment to develop Dover’s PCB manufacturing capability to serve new markets.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
Something in law. I’m interested in how things are judged to be right and wrong and the legal aspects of my industry.

Ronny Titeca
Lean Manufacturing Director
Megger Group

Hosein Torabmostaedi
Digital and Innovation Manager
Unipart Manufacturing & Hyperbat

Being able to help the UK manufacturing and skills to achieve ‘the now’ and be ready for the future is what inspires me in my career.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Be task oriented in every aspect of your work, build and use relationships to get support for the tasks, and use negotiation as a mean to a sustainable future.

Andrew Taylor
Managing Director
Specialist Glass Products

After starting my university career at Lancaster University, studying Physics, Maths, and Chemistry, I discovered Mechanical Engineering for the first time and changed courses to pursue it full-time. After graduating with a 1st Class Master’s Degree, I went into a job using 3D printing and additive manufacturing to help small companies develop new products. I then moved south to work for a product design consultancy in Oxford for a time, before starting my own company. We specialise in manufacturing prototypes using 3D printing technologies, and have had some great success so far, but I’m confident that this is just the beginning! As MD I am responsible for a lot of different things, and I love the variety in what I do from day to day.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
The electric motor. From powered transport and solar panels, wheelchairs and stairlifts to industrial automation; the world would certainly be a different place without the electric motor!
Tony Turner
Head of Engineering
Orchard House Foods

From very early on in my career, problem solving has been the thing that motivates me more than anything. Over time that has gone from fixing machines to fixing systems to fixing business problems. It still gives me the motivation to keep going as much now as it did right at the start. My career highlight is co-inventing a process for my industry that has changed how our business runs.

What is your favourite engineered/manufactured product?
Simple things like soft close door hinges, to F1 cars.

Gareth Turner
Head of Marketing
Weetabix

I have had the pleasure of leading the marketing for household name brands like John Smith’s, Bulmers, Lurpak, Arla and now Weetabix, where I have worked since June 2019. I’m passionate about working in brand led organisations with a long term, strategic approach to brand building, mixed with a good dash of bravery. Career highlights so far include buying a racehorse for John Smith’s, new product launches like the Bulmers fruit cider range and the Lurpak Cook’s Range. My most recent highlight is the “Beanz on Bix” tweet from February 2021 which broke the internet! Right now, I’m excited about the innovation pipeline at Weetabix along with the opportunities that our partnership with the FA has unlocked.

An interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.
During the first lockdown I restored and rebuilt three 1980’s BMXs. My favourite of these is my childhood Firebird Freestyler from 1984.

Paul Turner
Vice President
Stanley Black and Decker

I started my 30 year manufacturing career in the chemical and process industry working with operations teams focused on leveraging technology to drive process performance improvement. I was an early pioneer of real-time application of artificial intelligence in safety critical applications and was fortunate to publish and patent several innovations in this field. I then worked with some of the best minds in the industry to further develop these capabilities into technology that is now applied to hundreds of chemical plants worldwide. More recently I’ve shifted to discrete manufacturing which has been my focus for the past decade. Being witness to the tremendous advancements in AI and technology and how this can be tailored to the unique needs of manufacturing to drive significant value is what continues to drive me.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
I’d like to run my own production company (music, stage, media etc) and rekindle my passion for the creative industries.

Kevin White
Process Control & Automation Manager
Tata Steel

From my first experiences of soldering circuits in junior school and programming a ZX81 home computer as a teenager, I’ve been hooked on technology and what can be achieved by connecting computers to the real world to sense, measure and control equipment. Since then, I’ve worked in a range of manufacturing industries as diverse as metals, pharmaceuticals and food, always thinking about how control systems and data can reduce energy consumption and costs, increase speed of work and improve quality to our customers. I currently lead a team of highly skilled specialists in the steel industry, working in collaboration with colleagues in the Netherlands and India to maintain and develop systems that monitor the environment, detect asset health and optimise production.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
If I wasn’t in manufacturing I’d still want to be an IT or engineering professional so my dream job would have to be working on a space programme.
Mark Williams Hutchins
Data & Analytics Manager
Molson Coors Beverage Company

I love to find detailed insights using advanced analytics and machine learning and share these with the business to help drive the best business decisions. For many years I have thought that with all the data we have now that all the answers are available they just need to be found and shared. I’m amazed what advanced analytics can be used for and every day is a learning day, learning new forms such as deep learning neural networks is what I find interesting, and what insights and predictions these can provide.

If you weren’t in manufacturing what would be your dream job?
Analytics for an F1 team.

Andrea Wilson
Director
Hone-All Precision

Hone-All is a successful company based in Leighton Buzzard, specialising in deep hole boring, deep hole drilling, honing and CNC turning, with a vibrant and strong brand. We are recognised throughout the industry and regularly cited as an exemplar business for continuous improvement and regular investment in both their teams and technology. I have spent over 25 years working to improve the awareness, recognition, and image of the industry within the UK. I was Chair of the Make UK Eastern Regional Advisory Board for over 10 years and I’m a passionate campaigner for a dedicated Minister for Manufacturing to represent engineering and manufacturing and improve the knowledge of, and support for, SMEs within Government.

What advice would you give to your younger self?
Allow your passion and personality to drive your decisions sooner.
Know someone inspirational in manufacturing?

Nominate them for The Manufacturer Top 100 2022

THEMANUFACTURERTOPTOP100.COM