

**ROBERT J. WENDT**  
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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Dedicated to dynamic team development and leading others to reach their full potential. Known for leading and managing engineering product, business and manufacturing projects to successful completion: on time and within budget. Demonstrated ability to build and lead medium to large cross-functional design teams resulting in waste reductions greater than 50%. Eliminated over \$1,000,000 in fixed and variable costs through innovative engineering solutions to complex problems. Experienced in Six Sigma structured methods and quality systems. Led manufacturing processes improvement programs resulting in +\$400k cost containment.

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### **Core Competencies**

Building and Leading Effective Teams / Program Management / Engineering / Productivity Improvement / Operations / Product Design and Development / Process Improvement / Waste Reduction / Root Cause Analysis / Strategic Planning / Manufacturing / Change Management / Systems Thinking / Purchasing / Vehicle Integration / Inventory Management /Part Quality

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**ENGINEERING DESIGN ANALYSIS SERVICES (EDAS),** White Lake, MI 1991 - Current  
**General Manager**

*Focusing on creating and implementing innovative solutions to customers' product, manufacturing, design, quality, and system challenges. Continuously improving part designs, validation and approval processes at OEMs, suppliers, tier 1 manufacturers and prototype shops.*

- 10%+ increase in part life and +10% reductions in material costs through collaborative innovative design and analysis work; directly contributing to automotive OEM major contract award.
- 150+ people trained throughout the country as a certified instructor of Algor Incorporated
- 10 years of product design, development and analysis contracts with international tier one and prototype manufacturers utilizing CAD, CAE, and stage gates.

### ***Major Customer Successes:***

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#### **First Group America**

A \$5.3B world bus and transportation leader, serving more than 2.5B people every year

#### **Chief Engineer – Greyhound Bus Complete Vehicle Refurbishment program**

Provided engineering program leadership, product development management, and technical guidance for the Greyhound +\$15,000,000 green-field vehicle refurbishment project. Envisioned created and implemented part testing and validation systems; ensuring process, part, and system integrity.

- 50%+ turnaround time improvement, enhanced vehicle appearance and durability, while reducing part failure potential through effective part design management.
- 13+ new part and service suppliers brought on board through effective collaborating with suppliers' quality, testing, supply chain, product design, and development departments.
- Approached 0 installation and appearance complaints from mechanics and final inspectors.

- Greenfield part acceptance system monitoring over 1000 unique SKUs; ensuring aftermarket part quality was equal to or superior to OEM parts.
- More than 10 enhanced and approved designs creating +25% cost savings realized through effective root cause analysis process management.
- 10% waste reduction achieved through process flow improvement.

#### **Chief Engineer – First Group Louisville Engineering Center**

Envisioned and put into operation Greenfield engineering parts validation center to certify aftermarket parts for First Group America nationwide. Created and managed comparative test programs for over 300 aftermarket parts. Successfully managed off-site testing program for safety critical parts.

#### **Engineering Manager, First Group Corporate**

Managed engineering specification creation program - specifications written and submitted corporate approval to the EVP of purchasing and engineering. Created and managed workflow / reporting documents / central repository in MS SharePoint.

- Lead team in creation of over 1000 Design Failure Modes Effects Analysis (DFMEA).

#### **Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, MI**

##### **Senior Cost Attack Engineer – Chicago Assembly Plant, Chicago, IL**

Worked with assembly line personnel and managers, quality control and plant management to reduce fixed and variable costs for assembly processes and part designs.

- \$3,500,000+ fixed and variable cost reduction through effective management of platform product design, manufacturing, and production costs.

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#### **HAYES LEMMERZ INCORPORATED, Northville, Michigan**

2002 – 2006

*Global producer of steel, cast/spun aluminum, and cast iron products with excess of \$2.2B in sales. After working as an independent contractor and business owner with EDAS for 11 years, obtained corporate position with Hayes Lemmerz to expand industry knowledge, team management, and skill base.*

##### **Engineering Manager - Product Design and Development – North American Wheel, Commercial Highway & Aftermarket**

*Managed team of 8 and provided design department direction; supporting program managers and plants with product design and operational excellence services. Took over the corporate product life-cycle software selection team when previous manager left; project budget \$2,000,000. Managed all automotive components life cycle design programs. Three patents involving wheel design and assembly pending. Implemented APQP documentation spanning corporate and manufacturing facilities in the United States and Mexico.*

##### **Team and Leadership program results:**

- \$400,000 savings generated by recurring manufacturing defects resolution. (Lead team of 12)
- \$450,000+ departmental savings realized by outsourcing non-core departmental functions (Lead team of 8).
- \$40,000 per year cost savings through innovative use of existing, in-house technology. Additionally, this resulted in improved manufacturing and design quality. (Directed team of 1 designer and 3 plant personnel)
- +25% fixed and variable corporate software cost reductions through value added communization efforts. (Managed team of 8 designers)
- 50% improvement in departmental design cycle efficiencies through elimination of 5 software packages and engineering change request system automation. (Led Interdepartmental team of 6 from the IT, engineering and design departments).
- Reduced potential data errors and resolved critical timing issues through the implementation of the first departmental Process Failure Modes Effects Analysis (PFMEA). (Led 8 product design personnel.)

**STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS RESEARCH CORPORATION**, Cincinnati, Ohio  
*Collaborative product development software solutions development and supply.*

**Customer/Sales Support Engineer,**

Provide engineering services business unit support using Finite Element Analysis and 3-D solid modeling tools.

**GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION**, Warren, MI  
**Advanced Vehicle Development and Advanced Vehicle Engineering**

**Design and Analysis Engineer**

Co-developed side glass opening mechanism for flush side window; patent # 5,009,461.

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS / CERTIFICATION**

Licensed Professional Engineer - State of Michigan  
Beta Gamma Sigma – National Business Honor Society  
Michigan State University Executive MBA board Co-chair  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
Society of Automotive Engineers  
Engineering Society of Detroit

**EDUCATION**

**BSME**, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI  
**MBA**, Executive Program, Michigan State University, Troy, MI

**Computer Skills:** Advanced use of MS Office products (Excel, Word, Power Point, Access, Project, and Visio), CAD/CAE tools (CATIA, UGNX, I-DEAS, Minitab, NASTRAN, ALGOR, and ABAQUS Software), Thought Mapping Software (MindManager, The Brain), Windows, PC network installation, and configuration.

Six Sigma projects completed/led: Green and Black belt, Lean, 5S.