

Joe Praxel

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Objective

My diverse background in electronics, electro-mechanical, optical, radio-frequency, pneumatic and vacuum systems in both small and complex systems is plentiful. I understand and enjoy the need of employees to work many tasks at once and at times work outside their specialties. I have always worked towards quick and accurate problem solving, customer service and finding future improvements in reliability and serviceability.

Work Experience

Accelerator Engineer

4/2012 – Present Stanford Cancer Center, Stanford, CA

The Accelerator Engineer is responsible for the maintenance and operational status of high cost, highly complex patient treatment equipment in the department. Duties include the analysis of complex and intermittent machine related phenomena, corrective action related to such phenomena, the use of expert judgment in the acquisition of highly expensive repair parts, maintenance of parts and service databases, organization of documentation, and repairing/upgrading Intel based computers. Provides supervision to Accelerator Engineer and oversight of service record maintenance, parts procurement, and service inventory.

Product Support Engineer

1/2003 – 1/2012 Varian Medical Systems, Inc., Milpitas, CA

Supported all interactions between International Field personnel and Manufacturing, Engineering and Logistics of Varian's clinical linear accelerator systems. Became Subject Matter Expert (SME) on Varian's TrueBeam, Millennium and HD MultiLeaf Collimator (MLC) Systems. Member of MLC Product Team with responsibility for all field and related issues on existing installed base and in new hardware and software product development. Work with international development teams in California, Nevada and England. Developed all forms of product release service documentation including Service and Customer Technical Bulletins, Corporate Service Plans, System Acceptance Criteria and mandatory upgrades. Reported on quarterly Warranty and Installation financials. Trained field engineers, corporate training staff and customer hospital staff on MLC use and service. National and International travel for both product release support and emergency response to down machines.

Senior Vacuum Engineer

5/1996 - 7/2002 NexRay, Inc., Los Gatos, CA

Hired to develop improvements in cleaning, baking, pumping and documentation of x-ray tubes and Ultra-High Vacuum systems. Within a year achieved greater than a factor of ten-time improvement in overall base pressure of vacuum systems. Developed CMI's x-ray tube build and production processes and developed advanced procedures that cut x-ray tube high power conditioning time in half. Worked directly with Scientific Staff, Mechanical Engineering, Software Engineering and Manufacturing Departments to solve complex design, conditioning and manufacturing problems. Provided full training to manufacturing engineers and technicians on Ultra-High Vacuum systems, x-ray tube production and laboratory safety. Wrote simple to complex procedures for x-ray tube assembly and high conditioning. Experience with LABVIEW software running electron beam spot size testing. Dealt directly with outside vendors, including off site supervision during multi-day thin film target coating runs. Duties also include pre-installation site evaluation, installation, immediate field service and technical support of NexRay's prototype research system located in University Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin. Part of Cardiac Mariners Trade Show Staff dealing directly with future customers.

Science and Engineering Associate

12/1988 - 3/1996 Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford, CA

Responsible for maintenance, repair and calibration of the digital and analog electronic instrumentation and Electro-mechanical control systems of numerous surface science research systems. Use of all types of major electronic test equipment such as oscilloscopes, digital and analog voltmeters, function generators and more. Engineer and build unique analog and digital electronic circuits for use with these systems. Use an IBM compatible PC, ORCAD software for schematic drawings and archiving, and Smartwork software for printed circuit board design. Responsible for writing and developing departments' equipment Lock and Tag procedures. Served as departments' Electrical Safety Officer. Assist with quarterly safety inspections and then follow up of clearing of violations. Backup Scanning Electron Microscope operator. Experience with Ultra-High Vacuum (UHV) component assembly, pump down, and bake out. Machine work on a mill and lathe.

Principal Science and Engineering Technician/Elect

4/1985 - 12/1988 Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory, Stanford, Ca

Responsible for instrumentation on Ultraviolet and Soft X-ray Synchrotron Radiation beam lines and experimental end stations. Install, maintain and repair analog/digital electronics, and Electro-mechanical systems; including Ultra-High Vacuum (UHV) monochromators, surface analysis chambers, CAMAC and NIM computer interfaces, and vacuum pumping and control systems. Build unique electronic chassis and systems based on verbal discussions, sketches and/or formal engineering drawings. Use of mainframe and desktop computers for control of beam lines and data collection. Guide scientific users and laboratory staff in setting up and performing experiments. On major projects arrange procurements and coordinate shop fabrications. Experience with UHV component assembly, pump down and bake out.

Senior Science and Engineering Technician/Electronics

5/1983 - 4/1985 Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory, Stanford, Ca

Responsible for overall operations of all x-ray beam transport lines in the laboratory. Provided international experimenters with guidelines and assistance with the installation of electronic, mechanical, and vacuum systems at experimental stations. Handled installation, troubleshooting, and maintenance of laboratories radiation protection systems, video distribution and closed circuit television system, annunciator/alarm systems, vacuum control and beam line control systems.

Field Engineer

11/1981 - 3/1983 Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation, Sunnyvale, California

Test and repair of U.S. Air Force satellite ground control equipment.

Electronics Technician, Communications

11/1977 - 11/1981 U.S. Coast Guard, California and Oregon,

Repair and installation of U.S. Coast Guard Cryptographic equipment, radar, fathometers and general radio equipment.