

## **Get to Know the Team**

Jason Smith

Technical Director / Chief Technical Officer.



## **What do you do at Integration Technology?**

I'm responsible for the day to day engineering within Integration Technology, making sure that the current products and designs continue to operate and are developed to match advancing manufacturing requirements & processes. I also look after new product development and new technologies. Where possible, I try to get fully immersed in the product concept design.

## **What are your credentials/past experience, for working in your position?**

I have been with Integration Technology for 18 years. Prior to this, I worked in the automation industry first as a designer, then latterly as a project manager. Working for high volume manufacturers and the automotive industry. I installed UV systems as part of automated processes on several of the projects during this period.

Just prior to Integration Technology, I spent 3 years working for a tier 1 automotive supplier in the US.

I also have a Masters degree in Advance Manufacturing Systems.

## **What do you like about working for Integration Technology?**

Within Integration Technology, there is a great freedom to develop new ideas. We work very closely as a team, bouncing ideas and customer requests into design briefs.

I love the ability to sketch out ideas with my team on white boards, within weeks see "string and chewing gum" prototypes and then in a matter of months nicely honed products being photographed for data sheets, exhibitions and boxed for sale.

The main joy of working for a medium sized company is the ability to get involved in every stage of the design and development.

We use tools such as flow and thermodynamic simulation, but we also are happy to use simple models and prototypes where appropriate.

## **What is your background?**

I don't come from an engineering background. None of my parents, parents friends or relatives were engineers. However, when I was growing up, I had a love of lego (Meccano was bit expensive), and I loved building machines and mechanisms. I once build a rather crude automatic gearbox from lego, after being inspired by a television programme. Of course my favourite subject at school was engineering drawing.

### **What are the values that drive you?**

I am a great believer in enthusiasm. Whenever I'm looking for new staff, the most important credential to me is enthusiasm. I want my staff to want to come to work, I want them to love the projects they are working on, and to be thoroughly bought into the process of making it a success.

I'd like to think I lead by example. I try to be fair, calm and open to ideas and suggestions. I won't ask anyone to do anything I wouldn't be prepared to do myself.

### **Your top 3 favourite Podcasts/Books?**

I tend to only read when on holiday, where I'm quite happy sitting for 4 or 5hrs reading a book. I have a good friend who is an author, who keeps my wife and I in touch with current literature. So my choice is usually based on these.

My favourite book without a doubt is Canary Row by John Steinbeck. It's a beautifully written portrayal of human kindness and interaction.

### **What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?**

My lifelong passion is Hang Gliding, I started at 18 while at university, bought my 1<sup>st</sup> glider in my second year, and have owned one ever since.

Outside work and during the summer months I become very difficult to tie down in advance. The British weather is a fickle thing, and I absolutely hate missing a great hang gliding day.

I have flown, in gliders, microlight aircraft, hot air balloons, light aircraft, and even had a helicopter lesson, but I love the beauty and freedom of hang gliding.

I also run a few times a week, - I'm still relatively hopeless, and quite enjoy growing tomatoes, chillies and potatoes!

