

Karen Stuart

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Engineering Supervisor-Position Summary- Charlottesville, VA

Manages and participates in development activities associated with applying coatings (hard and lubricious) necessary to enhance blade product performance for specific customer needs. Required to take development protocol and turn into robust cost-effective processes and implement into manufacturing environment. Leads recommendation, purchase and implementation of equipment necessary to attain desired coating process. Brings astute knowledge of application of thin films, physical vapor deposition techniques (PVD) and chemical coating chemistry into new product development forums providing team with additional options to modify/enhance blade performance.

Universal Accountabilities

- Provides technical support to Manufacturing, Operations, Research, Engineering, Purchasing, and Quality Assurance, on all aspects of PVD and coating processes used in production.
- Leads research activities and establishes specifications and processes for coatings for blade steel and other materials as appropriate to business objectives.
- Works closely with other metallurgists, mechanical engineers and blade development supervisor to develop appropriate combination of substrates and coatings to meet end product performance needs.
- Plans with other engineering supervisors the coating processes to support Manufacturing, Research, Engineering, Purchasing and Quality Assurance business objectives.
- Establishes beneficial relationships with outside suppliers, including academic institutions, to develop equipment and processes needed to support technical product needs and business objectives
- Actively maintains a watching brief of the latest technological developments in areas of expertise, including materials, equipment and methods.
- Manages projects in coating area to be completed on time and in budget.

Specific Accountabilities

- Responsible for coating practices and procedures used in processing industrial blade steel, including specifications and test procedures.
- Responsible for oversight of equipment usage, preventive maintenance, repairs, and improvements to coating machinery. Must provide hands-on assistance to manufacturing and maintenance.
- Works with Operations and Quality Assurance to implement new coating processes into production and provide training to both operators and quality personnel.

Required Skills and Experience

- BS or MS degree or equivalent in Materials Science, Physics, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.
- 10 years of research and/or engineering industrial experience including supervision of others in this field. Laboratory background in thin film coatings measurement and testing.
- Knowledge of basic metallurgical processing practices particularly as it relates to the adherence of coatings and structural changes that may affect substrates through coating processes
- Excellent verbal and communication skills.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and applicable software programs.

Preferred Skills and Experience

- High volume application of precision coatings
- Previous experience in coating thin metals for durability or lubricity is highly desirable
- Relevant optical coatings experience is also valuable
- Proficient in project management

Working Relationships

A. Internal: Provides technical consultation and services to Research, Engineering, Manufacturing, Quality Assurance, Sales/Marketing and Purchasing professionals.

B. External: Interfaces with vendor sales and technical professionals, laboratories, universities and professional societies.

Work Environment

- Occasional travel may be required.
- Must be willing to work in a production environment (hands on approach)
- Must integrate productively in team environment