

Christopher Pietrzak

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Profile

A leader and product innovator with a rock solid reputation for strategic planning and execution of novel product solutions across geographic and culturally diverse teams while inspiring top-tier talent to create and manufacture impactful products on time and within budget.

Skills

Strategic Business Planning and Execution - 16 Years of Experience

Business Unit Development and Execution - 13 years experience

Global expertise, Europe, Asia, USA - 20 Years of Experience

Complex Change Management - 16 years experience

New Product Creation and Execution - 20 Years Experience

External Product Co-Development - 13 Years Experience

Cross Functional Team Management - 20 Years Experience

Consumer Insight Driven Innovation - 20 Years Experience

Experience

Business Unit Leader - Advanced Innovation, Rider Protection and Helmets / Specialized Bicycle Components, Morgan Hill, CA. JUNE 2019 - PRESENT

Recruited to rebuild Specialized helmet business from the ground up and bring innovation to the business as a whole outside of helmets.

Helmet: Evaluated each aspect of the helmet business including team, product, suppliers, budgets, spend, production, logistics and sales while working cross functionally across each department to lead a successful revitalization of the business.

In charge of the Advanced Innovation and Rider Protection groups to bring new ideas to reality. The main purpose of each group is to create new revenue streams within the company and to diversify the business portfolio while giving new perspectives and products to the cycling community.

HEAD OF INNOVATION / CTO, MIPS AB – JAN 2017 - JUNE 2019

Core Management team member comprised of CEO, CFO, CTO and Head of Sales. We are tasked with strategically positioning MIPS to handle the extreme growth and ensure the day to day operations align with the companies long term goals.

Organized the R&D and Product Implementation Departments to interface with clients and internal teams effectively and efficiently while fostering creativity and product innovation.

Launched 4 new product lines in 2 years to address holes in the product portfolio.

DIRECTOR - PRODUCT CREATION - POWERSPORTS, BELL HELMETS – FEB 2016 - OCT 2016

Assigned to the role of Director of R&D Powersports after Bell was acquired by VISTA Outdoor and the Advanced Concepts Group was dissolved.

Rebuilt the R&D department to ensure effective communication and efficiency were maintained both within the team, inter-departmentally and externally. Implemented a repeatable ROI analysis of all projects current and forecasted to take into account resource allocation, CapEx, and budgetary allowances.

Within the first six months I successfully revamped and launched a \$24 million dollar project which was 1.5 years behind schedule.

DIRECTOR - ADVANCED CONCEPTS GROUP - BRG SPORTS – MAR 2013 - FEB 2016

Lead both the US and Asian Advanced Concepts teams towards product solutions that strategically fit within each of the 4 key helmet brands and category brand plans. Quickly identified opportunities in materials, geometry, construction, manufacturability and other new technologies applicable in product lines. Assembled internal and external teams and lead concepts from start through validation testing in a manufacturing environment.

Fostered innovation - looked beyond the norm in developing new product or practices and embraced the necessary change.

Managed Project Complexity - Executed minor and major platform level projects from start to finish.

Provided leadership - Took ownership of projects. Decisive while considering the overall project and resources involved. Took a global consideration of each decision and action.

Problem solving - Effectively analyzed all aspects of a problem, gathering necessary data, consulting others, making an informed decision and communicating it to the appropriate people.

Intellectual Property - Ensured proper protection with internal and external legal teams.

SR. PRODUCT DEVELOPER - ADVANCED CONCEPTS GROUP - BIG SPORTS – JAN 2011 - MAR 2013

Developed product at the forefront of new industry technologies as they could be applied towards helmets while conducting cost benefit analysis of each project before applying resources. I was the main contact for establishing and maintaining relationships with internal and external resources and represented Advanced Concepts in high level executive meetings.

PRODUCT MANAGER - EASTON TECHNICAL PRODUCTS NOV 2006 - JAN 2011

Spearheaded and orchestrated the successful launch of the new Mountain Products division of Easton. Reported directly to the President while responsible for establishing Easton Mountain Products as a high-technology brand in the outdoor industry. Created and executed overall strategy, marketing plan, inventory forecast, and product category direction to solidly established the category in the market within three years.

PRODUCT DEVELOPER - BLACK DIAMOND EQUIPMENT - MAR 2005 - NOV 2006

New position created specifically for my skill set in helmet development. Tasked with resolving helmet production and certification issues as well as ski glove and trekking pole development. Successfully transferred production to qualified suppliers and established a reliable supply chain.

JR. PRODUCT DEVELOPER - SPECIALIZED BICYCLE COMPONENTS - MAY 2002 - MAR 2005

3D modeling and design using Pro-Engineer and Wildfire I designed structural injection molded plastic components with aesthetic appeal, created manufacturing tool design layout for product, interfaced with suppliers and factories to ensure production schedules were met, performed impact testing of bicycle helmets and components to meet different global safety standards.

Software Proficiency

Solidworks, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro X, Office 365

References

Available Upon Request