

Manufacturing & Production Engineering

BAE Systems is primarily a defence engineering business, utilising world class project management techniques to deliver a variety of air, sea and land capabilities to our Customers. Without a dedicated and wholly capable manufacturing base, the company's world class engineering and project management capabilities cannot be effectively deployed and utilised. Most of the programmes and projects that BAE Systems engage in, like the new Aircraft Carriers, Astute submarines and the Eurofighter require extensive, highly skilled manufacturing operations to produce these world class products. Manufacturing operations vary across the different business units of BAE Systems, from the heavy engineering involved in shipbuilding to the precision production techniques required to assemble the Eurofighter. All of these operations are supported by dedicated Production Engineering teams that provide a variety of services, from support for front line production operations to production engineering assistance for design teams.

A career in manufacturing or production engineering will usually be pursued through the Operations strand of the GDF (Graduate Development Framework). Final roles off the GDF may include front line production management, design support or leading edge production engineering, which drives innovation. Roles can range from office based positions, working with like minded engineers, designers and managers through to largely production based roles, where significantly less time is spent behind a desk. Typically these roles will appeal to a wide range of graduates, although likely candidates will have confidence working in an often demanding production or production support environment where challenging deadlines and expectations are the norm. Clear communication, an ability to grasp new concepts and the aptitude to motivate yourself to meet challenges will greatly assist in a role within production engineering or manufacturing. As production is often one of the final lifecycle stages before the product is handed over to the customer, a wide variety of challenges exist, each day can be different and ultimately the roles can be particularly rewarding.

Through pursuing a career in frontline production management, graduates could find themselves working on a variety of projects, working their way up from managing a work team, through to managing the production of a whole ship or manufacturing plant. A role in production engineering could take several routes, a candidate may decide to remain technically focused, developing their knowledge, gaining further qualifications and ultimately becoming a respected expert within their field. Alternatively, a move could be made away from the technical base, towards a management focus heading up a team of production engineers and thereafter progressing along any of numerous paths. Importantly, no role is restrictive and graduates will find that they can move laterally as well as vertically through the organisation, an approach that will open new doors, allow new experience to be gathered and ultimately assist in a more rounded development.

If you choose a manufacturing or production engineering role you can be guaranteed of a challenging and rewarding career, where you will get opportunity, support and development along the way.

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