

Michal Ondrej

Innovation Center Senior Manager · Mechanical Engineer, MSc

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
hello@michalondrej.com
linkedin.com/in/michal-ondrej
michalondrej.com

Mechanical engineer with 15+ years in automotive, across engine programmes, vehicle launches, supplier quality and carbon fibre composites, in six countries. Today I lead an Innovation Center in Riyadh, building innovation from scratch inside a new car company: strategy, technology scouting, research partnerships, AI and R&D. Six Sigma Black Belt, Ironman 70.3 World Championship finisher.

80% fewer stop-ships, Evoque / Discovery Sport platform	23 supplier sites, 100% on-time PPAP (JLR)	106 McLaren Speedtails, carbon body supplier quality	8% → 2% staff turnover in 6 months (c2i)
--	---	---	--

EXPERIENCE

Innovation Center Senior Manager

Apr 2024 – present

CEER · Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Lead the company's Innovation Center: innovation strategy and roadmap with the CTO, technology scouting and evaluation.
- Build partnerships with research institutions, universities and technology providers; run R&D governance and steering.
- Drive AI-enabled process improvement and sustainability-focused technology exploration; train teams on in-house know-how.

Master Timing Center Manager

Jul 2023 – May 2024

CEER · Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Defined master timing plans and the vehicle development process methodology for the company's EV programmes.
- Created and ran company-wide training in programme management and vehicle development; set up company-wide issue management.

Founder and Owner

Dec 2022 – May 2023

Laco Composites · Karlovy Vary, Czechia

- Automotive composite part design and manufacture, natural fibre materials, composite recycling and prototyping.

Launch Manager, Launch Management Office Leader

Sep 2020 – Dec 2022

WITTE Automotive · Nejdek, Czechia and Velbert, Germany

- Led new project implementation in the plant; ensured plant, supplier and engineering readiness for launch.
- Implemented launch management systems and procedures; led the Launch Management Office.

Composites Supplier Quality Engineer (contract)

Jan 2019 – Apr 2020

McLaren Automotive · Woking, UK

- Led delivery of the complete carbon fibre body in white for the Speedtail (\$2M+ hypercar, \$750M programme, 106 cars).
- Owned PPAP approval, 8D concern resolution in series production, and development of new engineering materials at suppliers.

Technical Manager

Aug 2017 – Aug 2018

c2i Composites Innovations International · Dunajská Streda, Slovakia

- Ran product and process development (32 engineers, 20 operators) and the tool shop, reporting to the CEO.
- Cut cost 15% on a €3M budget; increased in-house tool manufacture 30% in six months; reduced staff turnover from 8% to 2%.
- Introduced design, tooling, project management and capacity planning standards; reduced budget variance 20%. Moderated FMEAs for Porsche Speedster and BMW M4 programmes.

Site Engineer, Supplier Technical Assistance

Jaguar Land Rover · Gaydon and Solihull, UK

- Covered 23 supplier sites with 100% on-time PPAP sign-off for all JLR vehicles and zero stop-ships or recalls.
- Rebuilt training for 20 SQA engineers and managers for the new Nitra plant; performance up to 30% above forecast.

2016 – 2017

Launch Engineer, New Model Programmes

Jaguar Land Rover · Gaydon and Solihull, UK

- Introduced engineering changes on time to 63 commodities for the Range Rover Evoque launch.
- Common containment process for the Evoque / Discovery Sport platform (UK, Brazil, India): 80% fewer stop-ships, 75% lower related cost, 25% better vendor performance.
- Ran cubing audits with a zero score at production prove-out and the highest PSW rate to date for a Halewood product.

2014 – 2016

Build Coordinator and Readiness Leader, then Test Engineer

Cummins · Darlington, UK

- Led manufacturing, purchasing and engineering readiness for the Euro VI emissions launch for DAF and Scania at three customer plants: on schedule, 10% under a €16M budget, up to 50 people.
- Moved the build from a prototype facility in France to serial production in the Netherlands with no customer impact; planned up to four engine validation tests a day.

2011 – 2014

EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS AND LANGUAGES

MSc Mechanical Engineering and Design INSA de Lyon, France · 2011	Six Sigma Black Belt 2013 Project and Programme Management 2013, 2016	Slovak native English, French fluent Spanish, German intermediate
BA Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Trinity College Dublin · 2010 · First class honours, double diploma	Risk Management 2016 · APQP, VDA 2018 Custom AI assistants 2025	

TOOLS AND METHODS

APQP · PPAP · VDA · IATF 16949 · ISO 9001 · ISO 14001 · FMEA · 8D · Lean · Six Sigma · Minitab · CATIA V5 · Solid Edge · MS Project

OUTSIDE WORK

Chairman, Riyadh Triathletes (since 2024) · Ironman 70.3 World Championship, Nice 2026 · British Triathlon Coach level 1 · Volunteer tree planting and youth athlete support, Iten, Kenya 2026