

Curriculum Vitae of

## **Frederick C. (Fritz) Kucklick**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Engineering and management expertise in the fields of mass production machinery, vehicle rims & wheels, and metal products manufacturing, based on a mechanical engineering degree and over 25 years' ownership, top management, international sales, design engineering, field startup, troubleshooting & installation, and project management positions with automotive component and heavy industrial machinery manufacturing companies in the USA and Europe.**

### **EXPERIENCE**

**1998-Present    President**

**IMT Consulting, Inc.**, Cassopolis, Michigan

- **Litigation Consulting and Expert Witness Service:** In matters involving industrial mass production machinery, manufacture of metal products, tooling. Cases have included patent, misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of contract, bankruptcy, and personal injury matters.
- **Engineering and Management Consulting:** Client engagements include new business startups, international liaisons, engineering analysis, a disaster turnaround, boards of directors, productivity improvements, and plant startups.
- **Representative clients include** GKN PLC (UK, Denmark, and USA), Daewoo (S. Korea and Poland), MetalDyne, Titan International, Asia Motor Works (India), Aero Race Wheels, Eaton Corporation, Mazak Corporation, Sanyo Machine America Corporation, SSB-Maschinenbau GmbH (Germany), and Hayes-Lemmerz International.

**1977-1998 Founder, Director, Officer**

**Hess Industries, Inc.,** Niles, Michigan

- Parent company of an international group of machine tool, tool & die, and production equipment companies including Hess Engineering, Inc., Niles, MI; Hess Engineering AG, Switzerland; Wheel Rim Machinery Sales, Inc., U.S. Virgin Islands; Capitol Technologies, Inc., South Bend, IN; X-Cel Steel Fabricating, Inc., Niles, MI.
- Company grew from its two founders to 500 employees in six locations in USA and Europe. Maximum annual sales U.S.\$75 million. Company's major customers are automotive OEM and Tier One manufacturers. Company's products include proprietary metalworking machinery, such as rim and wheel production lines, presses, resistance and arc welders, roll formers, shrinkers, expanders, straighteners, metal spinning machines, cold rolling mills, mill instrumentation, automations, robotics, special machines, assembly machines, food processing machines, tools & dies, and integrated production lines combining many different manufacturing technologies.
- Personal responsibilities and accomplishments include being one of the two founders, president of both Hess Engineering, Inc.(USA) and Hess Engineering AG(Switzerland), vice president of board of directors, strategic planning, acquisitions and startups of U.S. and European companies, due diligence, customer, community and government relations, and P&L responsibilities.

**1977-1998 President, Vice President, International Sales and Marketing**

**Hess Engineering, Inc.,** Niles, Michigan, a Hess Industries, Inc. subsidiary. See previous section.

- Company designs and manufactures proprietary metalworking machinery, tooling, and processes for automotive OEMs, automotive suppliers, and producers of metals and metal products. Company is well known for its equipment for producing vehicle wheels from steel and aluminum. Clients have included Ford, General Motors, Hayes-Lemmerz International, Michelin, The Budd Co., Heyco Metals, J&L Steel, Alcoa, Mannesmann, GKN, Rockwell International, Meritor, Chuo Seiki, Kanai Sharin, and other domestic and international automotive OEM's and suppliers.
- International markets served. Licensees and/or licensors in Germany, Japan, Brazil. Sales, manufacturing, and service subsidiary located in Switzerland.
- Awards include President's "E" Award for Export Excellence, Michigan Top 100 Growth Companies, and Michigan SBA Exporter of the Year

- Maximum annual sales of this subsidiary U.S. \$40 million, maximum employment 200.
- Management responsibilities and accomplishments include international sales (ca. U.S.\$150 million in contracts, 50% for export), strategic planning, strategic alliance development, contract negotiation, worldwide marketing, new product engineering and innovation, mentoring, facilitation, communication, P&L, and founding and operation of subsidiary in Switzerland.

### **Before 1977**

- **Applications Engineer.** Manufacturing Technology, Inc., Indiana, startup machine tool builder, 1976-1977. Duties included design engineering, sales engineering, establishing estimating and proposal procedures, business planning.
- **Sr. Design Engineer, Field Installation Engineer.** Grotnes Machine Works, Illinois, div. Inland Steel, machine tool builder, 1973-1976. Duties included machine design engineering, new product conception, cost estimating, and integrated manufacturing system debugging, installation and field service.
- **R&D, Project Manager.** Firestone Steel Products Co., Ohio, div. Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., truck wheel & metal container manufacturer, 1969-1970, 1971-1973. Duties included engineering design, fatigue and stress analysis, design of manufacturing processes, and field testing of fabricated steel and forged aluminum wheels for heavy vehicles such as trucks and buses. Designed, acquired and installed equipment and facility for fatigue testing of vehicle wheels.
- **VP, General Manager.** Westview Appliance Center, Ohio, home appliance sales & service, 1970-1971. Family business. Also worked part time as a mechanical and electronic technician in this business, from junior high school to university.

## **EDUCATION**

1965-1969 Ohio Northern University, BS Mechanical Engineering  
1993 University of Notre Dame, Certificate in Creative Management

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- Trustee, Ohio Northern University
- Eminent Engineer, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society
- Chair, Dean's Advisory Board, Ohio Northern University College of Engineering.
- Member, Society of Automotive Engineers
- Member, Society of Manufacturing Engineers

## **ENGINEERING SKILLS**

- Significant theoretical and hands-on engineering experience in the design, manufacture, installation, maintenance and operation of industrial production machinery, integrated manufacturing systems and automations, in the design and manufacture of steel and aluminum vehicle rims and wheels, and in the manufacture of metal products.