Laura B. Abplanalp

Experienced professional with strong leadership and technical skills.

OBJECTIVE: Perform in an advice and consulting role leveraging strong technical, business, and communication skills to review and optimize program offerings for space applications.

SUMMARY: 39+ years of experience with L3Harris / Harris / Exelis / ITT / Eastman Kodak in various levels of market segment, program, and resource center management. Provide outstanding leadership by leveraging skills and influence promoting an environment where personnel can reach their full potential to deliver results, challenging business objectives are met, and customers are delighted.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

L3Harris / Harris Space & Airborne Systems:

2018 – 2022: Director, Civil and Commercial Imaging, Pathfinder Solutions

Responsible for L3Harris's space science portfolio, then the classified pathfinder programs portfolio, including execution of existing contracts, driving growth, developing partnerships, and securing enabling investments to achieve business commitments (~$100M/yr). Portfolios included space-based observatories (including Roman Space Telescope (RST) Optical Telescope Assembly), and space-based and supporting ground-based hardware and software development and delivery.

Harris / Exelis Geospatial Systems:

2010 – 2017: Engineering Manager; Program Manager

Lead and managed up to 100 mechanical engineers, analysts, and designers. Responsible for setting goals and objectives, meeting performance commitments, ensuring implementation of best practices, supporting career development, refresh of tools and training to support business needs, and staffing critical capabilities (i.e., Line of Sight control systems). Leveraged deep technical, Black Belt and Project Management expertise to turn around a troubled proprietary program to deliver challenging structural components, brokered transfer and desensitization of National Reconnaissance Office telescopes, facilitated delivery of two 2.4m Forward Optics Assemblies and support equipment to NASA, and managed execution of Roman Space Telescope Risk Reduction contract to deliver maximum science benefit with minimum rework and maximum Harris workshare.

ITT Geospatial Systems:

2005 – 2010 Deputy Program Manager, Deputy Director

Day to day management for a market segment with sales of $250M to $300M per year. Prepare and execute Strategic Plan, drive growth in existing and adjacent markets, direct program managers, deliver sales and profit commitments, articulate investment required to achieve business goals, and communicate human resource requirements. Engaged in execution of troubled program, turning 0% award fee to 95%. Operational management for development and delivery of complex optical system and supporting electronics (total contract value $450M). Responsible for execution during integration and test phase (Unit #2 cost / schedule performance 1.0/.98), delivered on 97.5% of technical performance and compliance commitments, delivered 10% beyond revenue stretch goal (all fee bearing). Proactively integrated Black Belts to drive failure resolution to root cause & facilitate cost / schedule risk reduction events resulting in increased Management Reserve and positive slack to contractual delivery date.

Eastman Kodak Commercial and Government Systems:

1995 – 2004 Deputy Director of Engineering, Deputy Program Manager

Day to day management for new, large engineering organization that grew from 350 to over 800 heads. Ensured clear communication of goals and expectations, development of standard work, and cross-functional engagement. Prepared and executed annual department plans including hardware and software refresh, training, compliance, performance commitments, career development, reward and recognition, and process improvement initiatives. Led effort to build 15% buffer workforce thru subcontracts, contract labor, and consultants. Developed processes to manage resources and tasking during volatile funding period; earned 100% Award Fee and performed within 2% of funding, while increasing revenue by 15%. Managed development of a responsive solution for a high-performance, high-reliability image capture system, including pursuit of future contracts, customer interface, and proposal management.

1990 – 1995 Engineering Management, Discretionary Investment Manager

Managed group of 90 design and analysis (structural, dynamic, and thermal) engineers & designers during transition to a matrix organization. Responsible for budgets, transition from mainframe to desktop computing, training, recognition, performance commitments, and career development. Regularly communicated goals, project and research status, and current pursuits. Divisional-level responsibility for discretionary expenditures (>$10M/yr). Responsible for the annual IR&D Technical Plan, hosted government's on-site review (achieving highest score ever earned), negotiated IR&D/Bid & Proposal funding with the government. Managed division's capital and corporate investment.

1989 Congressional Fellows Program

Legislative Assistant to Senator Alan Dixon (D-Illinois), responsible for legislative and constituent work for Small Business, Telecommunications, and Defense. Assisted the Senator in authoring legislative, served as spokesman, wrote numerous floor statements and speeches, arranged oversight and investigative hearings, worked with committee and agency staff, and met with constituent groups.

1983 – 1988 Project Engineer

Responsible for design, development, and analysis of complex optical/mechanical image capture systems. Supported projects from design through fabrication, assembly and test, and technically managed several subcontracts.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS:

BS Civil Engineering, Michigan Technological University, 1982
MS Mechanical Engineering, University of Rochester, 1985
MS Engineering Mechanics, Michigan Technological University, 1987
Professional Engineer, New York, 1999
Project Management Associates Certificate, ESI/George Washington University, 1999
Six Sigma Green Belt, ITT, 2007
Six Sigma Black Belt, ITT/University of Michigan, 2011
Project Management Professional (PMP), 2013
Ethics Advisor, 2018-2019

SECURITY CLEARANCES:

Top Secret, SSBI, SAP

WORK/LIFE BALANCE:

Married 35 years, 5 children
Canandaigua Yacht Club Board Member
Mentor, Tutor, STEM career advocate