

ACS

advanced control solutions



Employee Spotlight – Sean O’Rourke, Application Engineer

This month marks the 16th anniversary of Sean joining the ACS team



Sean, what kinds of things do you get involved with?

I get involved with our control products, specializing in our OPTO 22 line. My primary role is to provide technical support to our customers, including the design and implementation of control systems. I also do programming and help with the integration of these systems with our other products.

Can you tell us a little about your background?

I grew up in Missouri and Kansas and graduated from the University of Kansas with my BA in Mechanical Engineering and Business. I have family in Georgia, so I moved here after graduating to look for a job. After a short stint as an Assistant Project Manager for a general contractor, I got a job at ACS.

How have things changed over the past 16 years at ACS?

When I started there was just Dave Pilliod, myself and one other guy. Today we have over 20 employees and several branch locations. The technology has changed a lot over that time as well. Like all CPU based products the PLCs have gotten faster, smaller and more powerful. We have also added several product lines, which allow us to offer more comprehensive solutions. We can do things today that we never even thought of back then.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I am a big movie buff, I enjoy watching all kinds of movies, but science fiction and action films in particular. I would be a rich man if I could figure out how to get paid for my movie trivia knowledge. I also enjoy spending time with my wife and 2 daughters, Piper (7 years) and Rylee (9 years).

What do you like best about working at ACS?

I like the fact that despite our growth, we still have the small company feel and everyone is very friendly. I really enjoy what I do for a living. The applications for control technology seem limitless. I get to see what goes into making everything we use in our everyday lives from electronics to toothpicks.

What is one the most interesting applications that you have been involved with?

That would be bird testing for a manufacturer of airplane windshields. They called it the ‘Chicken Cannon’. It was designed to shoot dead birds at windshields to test for the impact of a bird hitting the windshield in flight. Our system was used for monitoring, data gathering and controlling the firing sequence.

-Thanks to Sean for sharing a little about himself and that visual image of the ‘Chicken Cannon’. We look forward to spotlighting his co-workers in the month’s to come.