

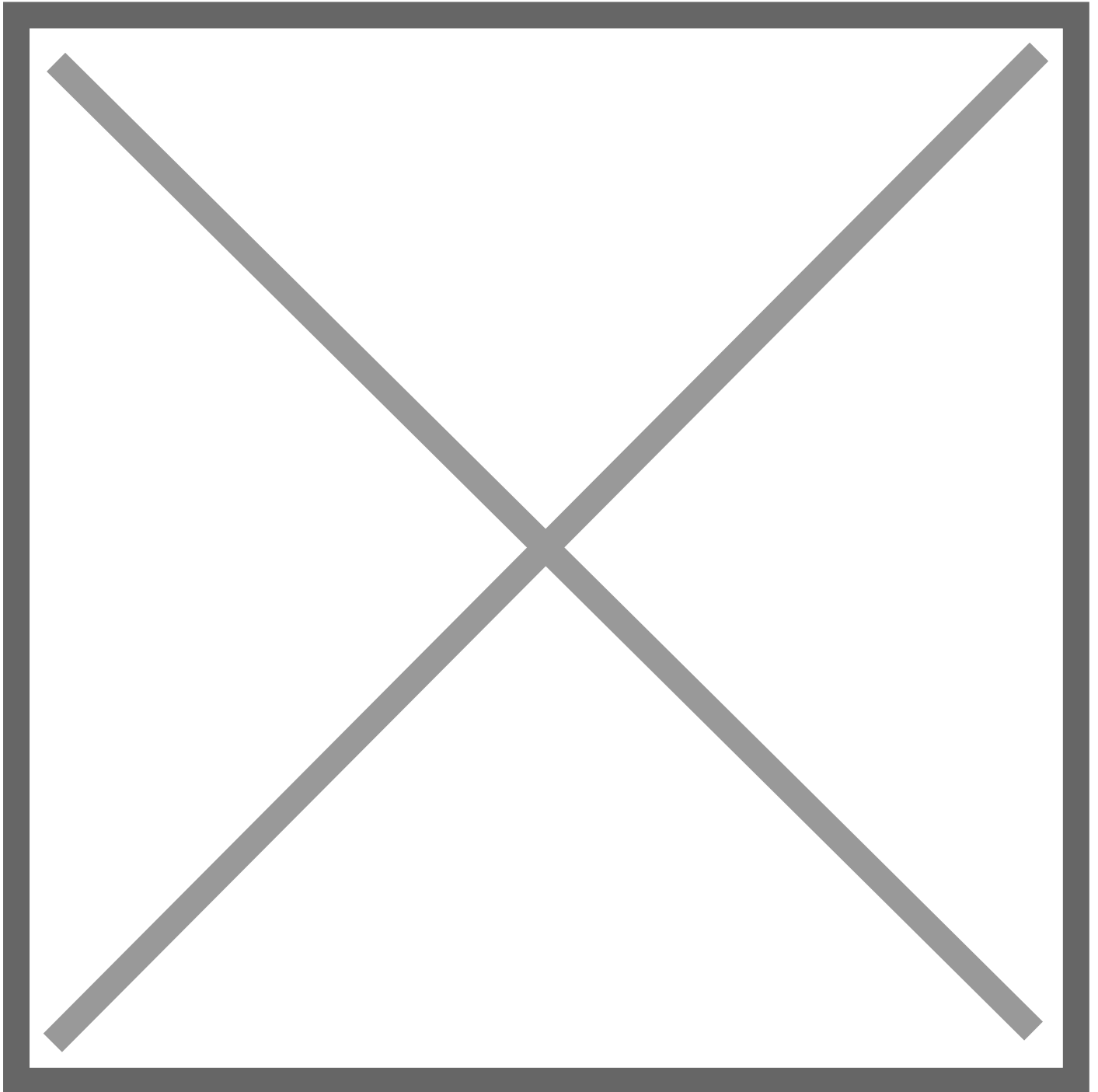
Inside Toyota R&D: Meet the Engineers Driving Innovation and Mobility

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At Toyota, mobility means more than just getting from point A to point B. It's about creating seamless, enjoyable and sustainable experiences for our customers — whether they're behind the wheel, powering their homes or exploring new ways to move. Our engineers bring passion, creativity and expertise to every project, shaping the future of mobility in all its forms. Let's meet some of the talented team members making it happen.



How long have you been an engineer, and what's your background?

I've been with Toyota for 18 years. I started right after graduating from Michigan Technological University with a degree in electrical engineering technology. Before Toyota, I worked installing car audio systems at Best Buy

and Circuit City — my passion for car audio goes way back to when I was 16.

What do you do at Toyota?

I'm a senior engineer in Audio and Multimedia evaluation. That means I help set the sound performance targets for vehicles like the Sienna, Sequoia, Tundra, Tacoma, Highlander and some Camrys. I also work with our teams in Japan and Plano to expand Lexus tuning support in North America.

How does your work impact customers?

What you hear inside your vehicle — the music, podcasts, navigation prompts — has been tuned by me and our acoustics team. We want every drive to sound just right, whether it's a relaxing road trip or your daily commute.

What inspired you to become an engineer?

My love for problem-solving and car audio drove me here.

Any fun facts about your role?

I once got to demo the Lexus Enform and Safety Connect system to Akio Toyoda himself.

What's your favorite part of working at Toyota?

Sound tuning is fun — it basically means sitting in cars and listening to music. Plus, I've traveled a lot for work, visiting plants and suppliers across North America and Japan. It's a great mix of hands-on work and adventure.



How long have you been an engineer? What's your background?

I've worked as an engineer for over 12 years, mostly in exterior lighting design. Before Toyota, I was a retrofit engineer for the U.S. Navy working on submarine upgrades. I also spent six years as a helicopter flight mechanic in the Coast Guard while studying mechanical engineering.

What's your current role?

I'm a project engineer, managing program deliverables such as schedule and cost while keeping the project scope aligned to non-R&D groups within Toyota.

How does your work impact customers?

When I was designing exterior lamps for vehicles like the Avalon and Tacoma, it was about balancing style with performance to create a relaxing driving experience. Developing the home energy product suite will give value to the customer by maximizing the usage of features on their EV. This is a new product for Toyota and Lexus with new potential value for the customer experience.

What inspired you to become an engineer?

Originally, I wanted to be a helicopter pilot. After working as a flight mechanic, I decided engineering was more aligned with my life goals. Automotive engineering wasn't the original dream, but it became an exciting opportunity.

Any personal philosophies or fun facts?

Through project and mentorship roles, I have developed a personal mindset of compassion, consistency and compromise. Be compassionate for the person, be consistent in the approach to the problem and seek the compromise to remove the obstacle.

Favorite part of working at Toyota?

Seeing products I helped develop on the road is incredibly rewarding. Toyota gives me independence with my work along with strong support — that confidence spills over into how I approach challenges in life.



How did you become an engineer? What's your background?

I graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in aerospace engineering. My uncle introduced me to Toyota's electronics division right after graduation, and I've been here for nearly 14 years now.

What's your role at Toyota?

I'm a principal engineer in the Cockpit Electronics Dept (IVS2), where we design amazing products such as the combination meter, audio head unit, body ECU, interior switches, smart key system and speakers. Specifically, my role is team leader for the Tundra, Sequoia and Tacoma projects. I facilitate design requests for my team,

visualize and report project health, and provide support in design/development to the engineers on my team.

How does your work affect customers?

Our products are part of daily vehicle use — from window switches to advanced ECUs controlling panoramic roofs or power tailgates. We aim to deliver high-quality parts that enhance the overall driving experience.

What inspires you?

Building model airplanes with my dad sparked my interest in aerospace engineering. My uncle's mentorship helped me find my place at Toyota.

Fun fact about your role?

Designing parts means collaborating with nearly every division in R&D, from style and interior design to safety and purchasing. It's a big team effort!

Favorite part of working here?

Aside from developing awesome products for our customers with my team and having that camaraderie, my other favorite thing is when all the hard work is finished, you get to see the media and customer feedback. It's rewarding to see the head unit or the drive mode switch you have been working so hard on for the past couple of years, show up in the commercials or social media posts. And then later on, hearing how our customers love using our products in their everyday life!