

Laura McDonald – Senior RF design Engineer

When did you join Filtronic?

2019

What attracted you to Filtronic?

I had heard the name Filtronic from my main RF Communications professor at Uni a few times. Initially I thought the work was mainly filter based, which I was not sure I would find completely fulfilling but as I investigated the company a bit more and saw the scope of work it seemed like a great choice. My main career goal has always been to become as multiskilled as possible so knowing the variety of work was a big draw.



What do you enjoy most about your job?

The prototyping stage. Getting evaluation pieces and test sets built and evaluated on the bench and then having that all feed back into the design process is a lot of fun. Being able to investigate problems and develop a knowledge base is a big side benefit of that process and I really enjoy it.

Describe a typical day?

Really depends on the stage of the project. Initially it's a combination of simulation and design of RF parts and then fitting them into a PCB layout until we get PCB's back and start testing. Once you start testing it is a case of getting in, getting the test site ready and just grabbing data for customer reports or project meetings. Characterising something and fully understanding the abilities of the unit you have built to either prove out the design or improve it for the next iteration really solidifies the subject for me. I'm a very practical learner.

What have been some of the highlights?

I've worked on a few projects, ranging from sub 1GHz to E Band. They've all been interesting, and I think the idea that I never know what the next problem is going to be is the major highlight for me at this job. There's always something new to learn. I really enjoyed the higher frequency work; it wasn't something I'd had a ton of experience with before I joined and the manufacturing capabilities of the NETPark site mean those types of jobs will hopefully stay as a regular opportunity.

What is next?

Taking on some more responsibility. Since I started my work has gone from working on someone else's design to helping the initial design process. I now have a feel for the whole project process at this point, but I'd like to start working on smaller projects independently and getting more experience running the work myself.

How would you describe working at Filtronic?

Challenging in all the right ways.

