

Paul Arkesden Profile

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An award-winning automotive executive and Chartered Engineer with leadership experience at **Rolls-Royce, JLR, McLaren Automotive**, and **Singer Vehicle Design**. Proven track record of scaling operations, leading global teams, and launching iconic high-performance vehicles. Adept at fundraising, strategic growth, and engaging with UHNW clients and investors. Passionate about craftsmanship, innovation, and delivering ultra-luxury automotive experiences across global markets.

Key Achievements

- Delivered two complete vehicle programmes at Singer Vehicle Design, including one in under 16 months with significant technical content: new engine, all-new body and bodying process, clean sheet transmission, and new controls architecture whilst meeting all regulatory and attribute targets, on time and to budget.
- Scaled Singer's Product Development team from 1 to over 70 specialists across the UK and US; introduced a global product development process.
- Led engineering delivery of the McLaren P1 hypercar, from powertrain development through production and heritage support.
- Grew a niche engineering business fourfold in 12 months, achieving FastTrack200 status; presented the business plan to the UK Secretary of State for International Trade, later cited in a CES keynote speech.
- Trusted brand ambassador to UHNW clients and royalty during bespoke hypercar programmes at McLaren Special Operations.
- Extensive international experience across Europe, North America, and Asia. Established network of automotive industry leaders, collectors, UHNW clients, and investors

Education and Training Summary

Key Qualifications

CMI Level 5 Management Diploma, 2013
B/Eng (Hons) Electro Mechanical Engineering, 1992
BTec National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, 1989
10 O'Levels/ GCE's at A – C Grade
Chartered Engineer and Member of the IMechE

Vocational Training

Ford Introduction to Leadership Programme, 2006
Practical Problem Solving, Distinction, 2012
Six Sigma Green Belt Trained, 2002
Advanced user of MS Excel, PowerPoint, and Word
Planet K2 Strategic Leadership Training

I am a STEM Ambassador and regularly support events at Schools and Colleges. I also regularly present on Engineering subjects at Universities and Colleges around the Midlands, Southeast of England and recently in the US. In 2017 I was invited by the Daily Telegraph and the BBC to be a judge in a Technology competition for Undergraduate Engineering Students.

Career Summary

PKe Consultancy Ltd.

August 2024 – Date

Managing Director

Founder and Principal Consultant at PKe Consultancy, specialising in business strategy and transformation for OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers in the low-volume vehicle sector. I provide technical leadership on niche automotive products, mentoring senior executives on transformation initiatives, and advise companies on scaling their operations. I also serve as an executive advisor to a number of companies, leveraging my extensive industry expertise and network to help businesses navigate growth, optimise their sales processes, enter new markets, and leading fund raising rounds.

With my extensive sector expertise, I frequently advise fund managers on investment opportunities and technical due diligence. I am passionate about innovation and I work closely with leadership teams to develop forward-thinking strategies and streamline their operations to ensure long-term success in an evolving automotive landscape.

Singer Vehicle Design.**Jan 2022 – August 2024****VP of Engineering and Product Development**

Sitting on the Executive Board, I had full responsibility for the Global Engineering and Product Development business unit within Singer Vehicle Design. This role included growing and leading the department globally, full financial responsibility for new product introduction along with full product development responsibility for current and new products. I was responsible for setting the strategic vision of the business unit, technical vision, owning the technical road map of the business, then delivering the cycle plan from business strategy to series engineering.

RLE International.**Aug 2019 – Jan 2022****Global Programmes Director**

Working primarily in the mobility sector, I had full Programme Office responsibility for delivery of RLEs global programmes. This role included developing and growing the business globally, whilst ensuring our projects were delivered in the most efficient manner and maximising the return to the client. I achieved success through driving process improvement into the Product Development process and maximising the use of digitalisation methods.

I also opened a new Business Unit in the company, working directly with the CEO and in the first 9 months delivered projects achieving contributions margins far in excess of expectations, all achieved through using new tools and processes with a hand-picked team chosen for their specific leadership and technical qualities.

Envisage Group Ltd.**Dec 2017 – July 2019****Director of Concept and Design Engineering**

I had full responsibility for the 'Concept and Design Engineering Business Unit.' This role included growing the business globally, full profit and loss accountability and full Engineering and Supply Chain responsibility for all Engineering and Group Portfolio projects. I had offices in Coventry, with teams based in San Jose, Shanghai, and Pune, collectively responsible for delivering products and projects that are fully legislatively and safety compliant around the world.

McLaren Automotive Ltd.**Aug 2014 – Dec 2017****Head of Product Development, Special Operations.**

As a member of the strategic leadership team at McLaren Automotive, I was responsible for leading all Programme Management, Engineering and Manufacturing activities within their Special Operations division. I was responsible for delivery of one-off bespoke vehicles, Limited Edition vehicles, Motorsport programmes and all bespoke customer requests, including the writing of customer proposals, gaining board approval for vehicle programmes, and the strategic growth of the company. Often in a customer facing position, I was trusted to represent McLaren in front of Royalty, VIPs and the press. I supported these individuals on their customer journey, and as a brand ambassador.

Vehicle Line Manager, McLaren P1**Oct 2013 – Dec 2017**

Reporting to the Executive Director, I had full responsibility for the delivery of production and all series development activity and Heritage Programmes for the McLaren P1™ and P1™ GTR vehicles programmes.

Powertrain Function Group Leader, McLaren P1**Aug 2010 – Oct 2013**

Jointly reporting to the Executive Director for McLaren Programmes and Vehicle Chief Designer I had full responsibility for the delivery of the complete Hybrid Propulsion system, meaning delivering a £60M project that met all its quality, cost, weight, and functional targets. This role included growing the team of Engineers from two to 16, setting and embedding Programme cost targets, high level functional attribute targets and achieving Engineering sign off through a Project Gateway process.

JLR.**Dec 2001 – Aug 2010****Powertrain Design Engineering and Programme Management roles**

Delivered the 2011 Freelander2 Major Engine upgrade from concept through to Engineering sign off and launch with my team of 40 engineers.

Prior, I was responsible for leading the cross functional team of 15 Engineers who launched the 2003 and 2005 V8 Engines into North America. I also led a Research Programme into the use of new low cost, lightweight materials that resulted in 2004's largest cost save in Ford North America. During a secondment to Ford, I led the European Shared Technology Powertrain Team to deliver resource savings to achieve a deliverable business plan. Developed a cross brand Planning Process and deployed into the 2007 Ford Motor Company business plan.

Earlier Employment

Between 1992 and 2001, I held Engineering roles in the automotive and high-tech industries in areas of Component Design and FE Analysis. Projects included design and CFD analysis of US Race Car Aerodynamic packages, Independent Rear Suspension Design for Ford Motor Company. In 1997 whilst at Rolls-Royce I was awarded the chairman's award for High Achievement and had the honour of shadowing the Chairman, Sir Ralph Robins.