

Position Summary

The Launch Engineer is responsible for planning, coordinating, and executing new product and program launches within a high-volume automotive manufacturing environment. This role ensures all launch activities meet customer requirements, internal quality standards, timing expectations, and production readiness targets. The Launch Engineer works cross-functionally with engineering, quality, production, supply chain, and program management teams to deliver flawless launches and stable production ramp-ups.

Key Responsibilities

Program & Launch Readiness

- Lead launch planning activities from early development through SOP, ensuring all deliverables are completed on time.
- Develop and maintain detailed launch timelines, open-issue lists, and readiness checklists.
- Coordinate cross-functional launch reviews, ensuring alignment between engineering, quality, production, and logistics.
- Support APQP activities and ensure all launch documentation is completed accurately.

Process Development & Validation

- Develop and validate manufacturing processes for new products, including work instructions, process flow diagrams, and PFMEA participation.
- Support tooling, equipment, and fixture buy-offs; ensure readiness for production trials.
- Conduct capability studies, MSA/GR&R, and process validation activities.
- Ensure all process changes are documented and communicated to relevant teams.

Production Trial Support

- Lead build events (prototype, pilot, PPAP, and SOP builds) and ensure parts meet dimensional, functional, and cosmetic requirements.
- Troubleshoot issues during trial builds and drive corrective actions with engineering and production teams.
- Monitor early production runs to ensure process stability and adherence to quality standards.

Quality & Customer Interface

- Support PPAP submissions, ISIR documentation, and customer-specific launch requirements.
- Work directly with customer engineering and quality teams to resolve launch-related concerns.

- Participate in root-cause analysis and corrective action development for launch issues.

Cross-Functional Collaboration

- Partner with production, maintenance, and quality teams to ensure smooth handoff from launch to stable production.
- Coordinate supplier readiness and ensure incoming components meet launch requirements.
- Communicate launch status, risks, and countermeasures to leadership and program teams.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering (Mechanical, Industrial, Manufacturing, or related field).
- 2–5 years of experience in automotive manufacturing, product launch, or process engineering.
- Strong understanding of APQP, PPAP, PFMEA, control plans, and automotive core tools.
- Experience with tooling, fixtures, and manufacturing equipment for seating, plastics, welding, or assembly processes preferred.
- Ability to read and interpret engineering drawings and GD&T.
- Strong problem-solving skills and hands-on approach to issue resolution.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work with customers and cross-functional teams.
- Proficiency with MS Office; experience with SAP or similar systems is a plus.

Key Competencies

- Strong ownership and accountability
- Cross-functional leadership
- Technical problem-solving
- Launch planning and organization
- Customer-focused mindset
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment