

What is an R&D Process Engineer?

An R&D Process Engineer produces new structures in semiconductor materials using plasma processing equipment manufactured by SPTS. The size of layers/features produced are typically less than the width of a human hair, and therefore much of the work is performed in a clean-room environment.

What does their role entail?

Typically they will have a one to two week project focussed on a particular customer requirement for which they will perform experiments and use analysis equipment such as scanning electron microscope, optical microscope, thin film ellipsometry, profilometer and particle measurement to check the results. They often need to deliver results according to tight schedules, and report and document their work effectively. They also have opportunities to work with our overseas customers to develop innovative solutions for high tech applications that are used in products such as smartphones, games consoles, GPS systems, medical devices and LEDs.

What qualifications do I need?

For graduate recruitment we are looking for a good degree ideally in a Physics, Material Science or Engineering discipline however SPTS will recruit and train candidates with excellent A-level results for R&D/ Process Engineering apprenticeships.

“It is rewarding to know that the work we do every day at SPTS pushes the boundaries of what is possible with current technology.”

Ollie
Etch Technologist



Huma, Head of R&D Accounts

How did you come to work at SPTS?

I was introduced to SPTS by a fellow student, when I was looking for vacation work during my degree. I subsequently continued my studies at university on a scholarship from SPTS.

What does your job involve?

In the initial years as a Process Engineer, my role involved a good mix of scientific problem-solving, practical work, and direct contact with customers from universities, research institutes, and semiconductor-based companies, worldwide. It was a very exciting time and I was given the opportunity to travel. Now that I have progressed to the Manager of R&D Accounts business unit, my role is still very interesting but has less focus on lab work.

What subjects did you study?

I studied Maths, Physics and Chemistry at A-Level then went on to study Engineering at university.

What qualifications do you have?

During my degree, I did some vacation work at SPTS, and found I enjoyed the subject of Semiconductors which inspired me to do a Masters degree in this area.

I returned to SPTS to get some industry experience, with the plan to return to university to do a PhD. However, I found my job very absorbing, and never returned. Instead, I did a PhD whilst working at SPTS.