How to become a...
Software Development Engineer

What is a Software Development Engineer?

A Software Development Engineer is a professional engineer who evaluates computer system requirements then designs, develops, tests and documents software to provide the features necessary to fill those requirements. At SPTS these systems are intended to control and monitor the equipment the company supplies to the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

What does their job entail?

Software Development Engineers at SPTS develop software to support User Interfaces, Editors, Scheduling, Data Logging and control of hardware systems for automatic transfer and processing of semiconductor wafers. They take a structured approach to all aspects of the 'Software Development Life Cycle'.

What qualifications do I need?

A degree in Computer Science or related subject would be ideal. The most important quality is the ability to think in an analytical and methodical manner. Patience and perseverance are necessary in getting complex equipment to behave correctly and safely under the many conditions it may encounter. Good communication skills are also required.

> "Software is a creative and innovative process in an ever changing environment. I enjoy being part of a fast moving industry at the forefront of technology, and knowing that the software we produce is at the heart of it."
>
> Angie
> Software Technologist

Mark, Director - Platform Group, Single Wafer Products

How did you come to work at SPTS?

I always had an interest in technology and SPTS were local to where I grew up and therefore an ideal company to get an apprenticeship with. I got an apprenticeship as a test engineer after leaving secondary school straight after completing my O-Levels.

What does your job involve?

I manage a team of Software, Mechanical and Electronic Engineers who are responsible for the design of the Transport Module (the part of the machine that moves the semiconductor wafers around the system), the software used to control the tool and the RF systems used on the various process modules.

What subjects did you study?

While at school I studied O-Levels in the usual subjects of English, Maths and Science as well as Geography, French and Design & Technology. I left school after O-Levels and followed a specific Electronics Engineering academic route.

What qualifications do you have?

I left secondary school with O-Levels and SPTS sponsored me though an HNC followed by a BEng Hons (day release) degree in Electronics Engineering. This gave me both academic and practical experience.