

Technical Team Biographies

The following team of automotive and engineering experts has been compiled to lead technical operations for the Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE competition. Under the direction of Bob Larsen, Senior Advisor, Technical Operations for the Prize, the following individuals will all serve on the technical inspection and design judging team.

Bob Larsen

Senior Advisor, Technical Operations

Bob Larsen has 30 years experience in developing and testing advanced automotive technologies at Argonne National Laboratory. He has over twenty years experience in designing, planning, and implementing vehicle competitions using every major alternative fuel and advanced propulsion technology. The Director Emeritus of Argonne's Center for Transportation Research, Bob continues to develop vehicle competition programs for the U.S. Department of Energy, the latest ones being the EcoCAR Challenge (with 17 universities in North America and over 30 sponsors headlined by DOE and GM), and the Green Racing Initiative bringing energy efficiency and environmentally responsible elements to professional motorsports. Elected to the Board of Directors of SAE International from 1998 - 2000, he is active on several major SAE technical committees, has been an organizer of the SAE Hybrid Electric Vehicle Symposium for six years, and was appointed to the SAE Motorsports Council in 2008.

Steve Wesoloski

Director, Technical Operations

Steve Wesoloski has over 20 years experience in the Big 3 Automotive Industry, with a focus on engineering and motorsports. Most recently, he served as the Road Racing Group Manager for GM Racing. As technical and administrative leader of this group, he was responsible for a multi-million dollar annual budget distributed over up to four major programs, team contract negotiations and execution, as well as sanctioning body rules negotiation. Earlier in his career, Wesoloski was the Lead Chassis Engineer for Corvette Racing. He started at GM as an engineer on the fourth-generation Corvette.

Don Taylor

Senior Advisor, Competition Rules

Don Taylor has a diversity of experience in the auto industry with both GM and Ford, in the racing industry, and in non-automotive product design. He has also been a promoter of "green racing", working with the SAE and the UK's Motorsport Industry Association. Before joining the Progressive Automotive X PRIZE, Taylor was the Senior Director – National Technical Operations for the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), where he oversaw the creation and implementation of rules and policy for over 240 classes and categories of drag racing competition. Prior to joining NHRA, Taylor spent a number of years at GM.

P.T. Jones

Senior Advisor, Competition Operations

P.T. Jones is a senior vehicle systems engineer, with over 17 years of experience in vehicle technologies, design, development and integration. He has managed projects in vehicle systems technologies ranging from emissions test facilities procedures and certification projects to OEM test and development activities, OEM Engineering design and release responsibilities, OEM Structures (NVH) performance team leadership, manufacturing and powertrain systems development. He supported vehicle development and production release activities at General Motors Corporation for 9 years in areas of conventional and E85 "flex-fuel" systems; powertrain integration and testing, and program management for advanced/alternative powertrain competitions. He was also responsible for the production release of the largest production volume E85 fuel system in the company's history. As the Engineering Program Manager for the Challenge X advanced powertrain competition, he was responsible for implementing a new multiyear format, which used a development process he modeled from GM's own Global Vehicle Development Process (GVDP). While in this role he coordinated activities and resources with National Labs, academia and key sponsors to ensure program success. P.T. is currently an Engineer with Sentech, Inc. which provides clean energy and advanced transportation engineering services.

Jody Nelson

Senior Advisor, Energy Storage Technologies

Jody J. Nelson received B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. As a graduate student he was a research assistant and teaching assistant for the Wisconsin Electric Machines and Power Electronics Consortium (WEMPEC) group. Additionally, he held the position as chairman for the University of Wisconsin's 2001 Future Energy Challenge Team to design and build a 10 kW inverter fuel cell interface for residential applications in a national competition. Before graduating, he spent several semesters working as an engineering intern at The Toro Company, Hamilton Sundstrand Aerospace, General Electric Medical Systems, and DaimlerChrysler AG. From 2002 until June of 2009 he worked for Daimler AG in Stuttgart, Germany and Troy, Michigan, USA in both the research and development. His work primarily was based on hybrid electric and fuel cell vehicles with focus on automotive electromagnetic compatibility, electric motor control and diagnostics, and various vehicular safety topics. His current position is with BluEngineering LLC providing engineering services in the fields of alternative and renewable energy technologies. He holds one patent with two pending and is the author of eleven technical papers.

Dr. Jim Winkelman

Senior Advisor, Electronics & Advanced Propulsion Technologies

Dr. Jim Winkelman received his Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering - Control Systems from the University of Wisconsin in 1976 and is a Fellow in IEEE. He has over 30 years of postgraduate industrial experience in developing advanced products at General Electric, Ford, Visteon and Plug Power. At Visteon, Dr. Winkelman was a Senior Manager in the Visteon Powertrain organization and led the Advanced Energy Management Systems department. This cross-functional multi-disciplined department was responsible for development of advanced system products focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to that, he managed the Ford Motorsports Electronics department, which developed all manners of electronic vehicle controls ranging from engine management systems for turbo-charged engines to active suspension and four-wheel steering systems. He has authored over 70 technical papers, dozens of internal reports and authored or co-authored 4 books or chapters in books. He has more than a dozen patents. Currently he heads up his own engineering consulting company, Winkelman & Associates, specializing in automotive control systems.

Spencer Quong

Senior Advisor, Fueling & Advanced Vehicle Technologies

Spencer Quong graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor's degree in Materials Science and Engineering. From racing solar cars across Australia to fueling hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles, throughout his career, Spencer has focused on the technical aspects of advanced vehicles and

alternative fuels, including fueling infrastructure, vehicle engineering, and alternative fuels safety. Currently, he is the Chief Technology Officer of his own company, Quong & Associates, Inc. (QAI) whose clients include GM, Toyota, Honda, and the Department of Energy.

In the past, Spencer has worked at the R&D department of Ford Motor Company and helped develop a novel large-scale manufacturing method to bond an all-composite vehicle. Spencer also worked at AeroVironment, Inc. as the Manager of Advanced Vehicle Programs where he led several multimillion dollar electric, hybrid, and fuel projects. Spencer has provided engineering consulting services and alternative fuels for several major competitions and events, including the Michelin Challenge Bibendum and California Fuel Cell Partnership Rally. Spencer is a member of the award winning Team New England Solar and Electric Race Car Team, plays clarinet professionally, and is a kayak and world travel guide.

Bill Taylor

Senior Advisor, Engine Controls & Emissions

Bill Taylor has over 15 years experience in automotive powertrain development. Previously, he served as Chief Operating Officer of the Clemson University Computational Center for Mobility Systems, where he worked extensively on engine and powertrain simulation. Taylor worked for 11 years in the automotive supply industry, including 3 years as Chief Engineer for diesel after treatment systems at Eaton Corporation. Taylor has published widely in the field of emission control and powertrain R&D, and has won several awards for automotive innovation and technical leadership.

Dorian Tyree

Senior Advisor, Safety and Crash Worthiness

Dorian Tyree retired from General Motors (GM) after a 35 year career as a Mechanical Engineer, specializing in structural analysis and safety/crashworthiness. Dorian earned a BS ME degree and a MS Manufacturing Management degree from Kettering University (formerly General Motors Institute). Dorian was the Safety Lead Engineer for the Corvette (1987-2008) and the Cadillac XLR. As a Safety Lead Engineer, Dorian led a team of Engineers which developed and validated integrated engineering solutions that enabled the Corvette and Cadillac XLR to meet FMVSS Occupant Protection and Crashworthiness requirements. Dorian also specialized in the development of subsystem crashworthiness component tests which enabled the Corvette and Cadillac XLR to meet GM and FMVSS system requirements.