

Chris Hsiao

INNOVATIVE PRODUCT LEADER

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Objective

To obtain a challenging product leadership position where I can help create breakthrough innovation and build pipelines that excites customers with my 20 years of experience in product development and cross-functional team leadership.

Experience

VHS Ventures | Investment Fellow

2025 – Present

- As a part-time Investment Fellow for the boutique venture capital firm VHS Ventures, my tasks broadly cover deal sourcing, developing an internal pipeline platform tool, creating investment memos, managing due diligence processes, and ad hoc mentorship of consumer portfolio brands (with a focus on tariff risk mitigation, AI-assisted product development, and operational streamlining)

Varidesk | Senior Director of Product Development

2019 – 2025

- Lead domestic and international design, engineering, and manufacturing teams through all facets of new product development – from strategy and ideation through manufacturing and supply chain performance. Regularly saw 40% of total revenue come from new products (defined as SKU launched within the past 12 months).
- Programmed and implemented technology initiatives as corporate-wide standards - including digital transformation through global PDM and SolidWorks usage and best practices, change management standardization, GPT-trained internal AI design tools, and digital manufacturing
- Managed outside design and manufacturing vendors and coordinated with various internal teams across the organization to align with product roadmaps, product portfolio (500+ SKU's, ~\$250MM annual revenue), and timelines
- Spearheaded product roadmap, innovation, and technology process initiatives based on target revenue goals, target consumer groups, and departmental budgets
- Traveled to Taiwan and China quarterly for product reviews and vendor due diligence and relationship management (Conversational Mandarin capability)

Gossamer (Acquired by Varidesk) | Founder

2015 – 2019

- Created a product strategy, design, and engineering consultancy that worked with venture-backed startups, Fortune 10 companies, and everything in between
- Day-to-day broadly ranged from project management and consulting utilizing Agile, matrix, and iterative methodologies between design, engineering, and manufacturing teams (both locally and internationally), business development, investment due diligence, client relations, speaking engagements, and networking through various tech events
- Key products included patented work on the world's fastest consumer drone, children's medical devices, consumer IoT electronics, and Fortune 10 manufacturing line tooling

Taylor Deal Aviation | Project Manager

2013 – 2015

- Lead an engineering and manufacturing team of 15 team members through the development and iteration of a first-of-its-kind metallic and composite Boeing 777 ceiling structure

- Coordinated with FAA regulatory and client requirements while balancing a \$15MM budget, hours, task assignment, and vendor liaisons.

LMI Aerospace | Stress Engineering Consultant

2011 – 2013

- Analyzed various flight test vehicle commodities including the cockpit and pressure floors, rudder fittings, and horizontal stabilizer fittings by utilizing linear and non-linear FEA solutions for the Bombardier Learjet 85.
- Designed and optimized next-gen Boeing 787-9 high-thermal nacelle inlet, fan cowl, and thrust reverser commodities for both Rolls Royce and GE configurations.

Triumph Aerostructures | Stress Engineer

2008 – 2011

- Reviewed and substantiated various Section 47 and 48 skin penetration attachments, passenger floor structure, and static test results for the Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 utilizing FEA solutions (Patran) and Boeing proprietary analysis tools

Associated Air Center | Lead Stress Engineer

2005 – 2008

- Coordinated project performance from planning to completion including budget/man hour projection, task assignment, and vendor and inter-department liaison
- Performed standard stress engineering work (FEA and hand analysis) and liaised with FAA DER for project airworthiness
- Created and lead internal test lab which included coupon testing as well as full-scale first article pull tests

Education

University of Texas, BS Aerospace Engineering

2001 – 2005

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Training

IBM | AI Product Manager Professional Certificate

2025

Completed course on product management and product strategy development with an emphasis on agile methodologies like Scrum. Learned to develop AI-powered products and understand generative AI concepts (prompt engineering and foundational models)

University of Washington |

2019

Completed courses in strategic applications of IT project and program management, portfolio management and governance, and leadership and management for PM practitioners in IT

Skills & abilities

- Management Consulting
- Problem solving
- Product Development
- Manufacturing
- Product and portfolio strategy