

Meet the team



John Bowmer, Test Rig Engineer – Mechanical, Engineering

What do you love about your job? Working in the nuclear industry can be incredibly diverse. I've worked on complicated nuclear pressure vessels and physically seen them being manufactured and forged. I have been to multiple nuclear power stations around the country from Dungeness to Hartlepool solving complicated engineering problems. Now I'm working in test rigs which could involve something small such as irradiating material samples to designing huge reactor mock-ups.

Why did you choose Nuclear? Originally a career in the nuclear industry wasn't something I had ever thought of before until a mentor recommended a MSc in Nuclear Science and Technology. As soon as I started the Masters, I knew instantly this is what I wanted to do as a career.

Your academic journey: MSc Nuclear Science and Technology (Reactor Technology) at University of Manchester, then a BEng Virtual Design in Engineering at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Your work experience: I originally started in commercial refrigeration and HVAC systems until I started working in Rolls-Royce Submarines, designing pressure vessels in the Primary Reactor Circuit. From there I moved over to Rolls-Royce Civil Nuclear where I have been involved in a number of projects, from waste treatment vessel design to working at Heysham and Hartlepool nuclear power stations. I'm now working as a Test Rig Mechanical Engineer.

How did you get into your specialism? I was actually applying for a completely different graduate scheme then decided to try straight for Roll-Royce Submarines. From there I found that I really enjoyed designing mechanical components because of the different challenges (shielding, weight etc). I've never looked back.

What advice would you give to someone interested in doing a role similar to yours? You don't need a degree in nuclear physics to get a job in the nuclear industry. Don't be afraid to work in different engineering specialisms before you decide what to do. I've gone from refrigeration to submarines, power stations and turbine jet engines before my current role in test rigs.

What three words would you use to describe working at Rolls-Royce SMR? Rewarding / Exciting / Satisfying.

What would you say to someone considering a career with Rolls-Royce SMR? If you want a career in a business that is trying to solve the climate and current energy crisis then go for it.

