

Alex Cofre

Mechanical Engineer

Why did you join Air Products?

Of all the options available to me, I felt Air Products offered the most versatile learning opportunity to develop my career.

Why do you love working at Air Products?

The people are exceptional. I'm surrounded by high-caliber individuals who want to succeed. I love being a part of those teams.

What is it that keeps you working at Air Products?

I'm given challenging opportunities to grow and develop and feel my contributions are valued. I believe in where this company is headed, and I look forward to being part of its future.

Please describe (in brief) your career at Air Products to date.

I began working for Air Products as a high-school intern in the R&D facility as part of an outreach program to encourage well-performing students to continue towards a college education and see what opportunities are available.

After college, I joined Air Products as part of the Career Development Program program as a Mechanical Engineer. My first assignment was in our CryoMachinery division. I was given increasing responsibilities at an early point in my career and had the privilege of managing the day- to-day activities of one of the manufacturing facilities. I was exposed to machinery and managed the refurbishment of the test facility compressor. It was there that I learned how much I enjoyed working with mechanical equipment.

From there, I moved into a Machinery Engineering role where I gained a deeper knowledge of rotating equipment, which opened the doors to a commercial role within Procurement where I became responsible for procuring the rotating equipment. I moved from tactical procurement role to a strategic sourcing role, where I had global responsibility for sourcing rotating equipment.

I transitioned into a management position within Operations where I was able to learn about the Operations side of the business and leverage my knowledge of equipment and relationships developed with suppliers to help the Materials Management team succeed.

How does what you do contribute to sustainability?

My job is to help come up with sparing strategies which involves the sharing of spares regionally and globally. Sharing parts means we lower the demand of production and consumption of raw materials which directly impacts sustainability.

Tell me about the most intriguing/satisfying thing(s) you've since you've been at Air Products.

I've had the opportunity to travel around the world to meet suppliers and colleagues from our offices in Asia and Europe. I have developed extensive networks and relationships with senior leaders from various companies that helped guide me along in my career.

What career advice would you give to those just starting out in their engineering careers?

The reality is that most people don't really know what job they want to do out of college, so look for a company that has programs designed to help you develop in your career. The best piece of advice that has helped me in my career is to always value what others around you have to offer. You don't know it all, and you have so much to learn, so be teachable by anyone.