LKP ACADEMY

MAGAZINE

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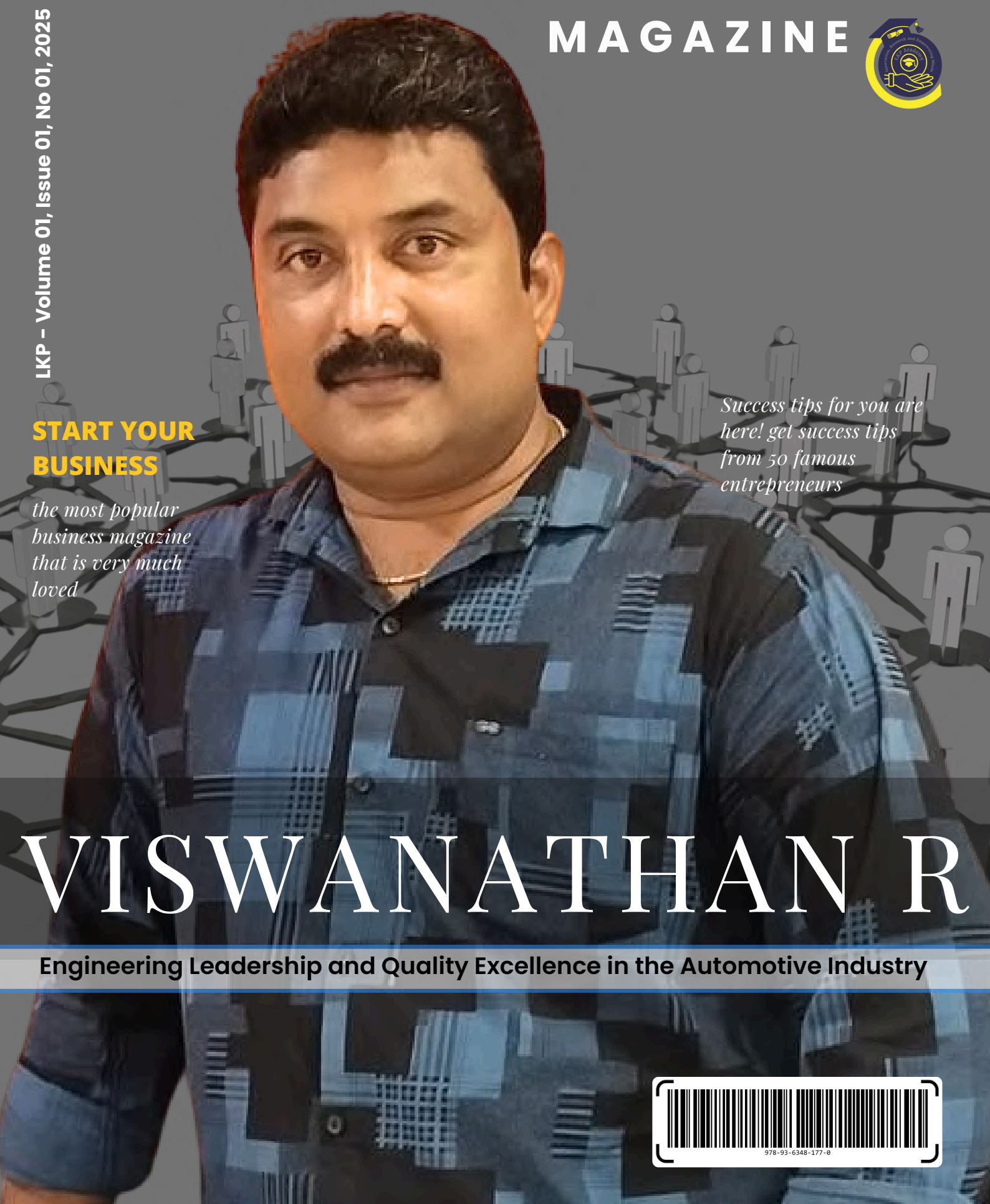


VISWANATHAN R

Engineering Leadership and Quality Excellence in the Automotive Industry

978-93-6348-177-0

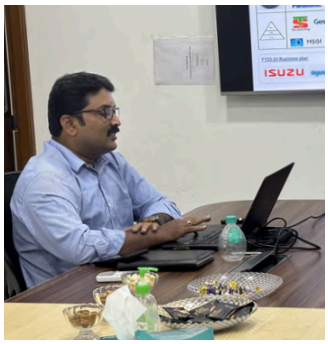
EXPLORING VISWANATHAN R

R. Viswanathan is a seasoned automotive industry professional with over two decades of rich and diversified experience in Supplier Quality Assurance (SQA), Sourcing, and Supply Chain Management (SCM), backed by a B.E. in Mechanical Engineering (Part-Time). He possesses deep technical expertise in a wide range of commodities, including BIW stamping panels, advanced welding processes (Spot, Projection, MIG), and critical automotive components such as Cross Car Beams (CCB), door hinges, and hood hinges. His career has been defined by a strong command over inspection techniques, root cause analysis, G8D problem-solving methodologies, 7QC tools, and supplier manufacturing process setup in alignment with ANPQP standards.

Viswanathan has consistently delivered excellence in plant delivery performance, addressing challenges related to DPHU, FSTR, and OEE metrics, ensuring both temporary and permanent countermeasures are implemented within stringent timelines. His expertise extends to end-to-end new project launches, having played a pivotal role in more than 11 major greenfield projects for leading automotive brands. His portfolio includes successful contributions to high-profile Renault-Nissan models such as Magnite, Kiger, Triber, Kwid, Micra, Sunny, Duster, Captur and Ford models like Fiesta and Figo.

Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an exceptional ability to build and nurture strong supplier relationships, foster cross-functional teamwork, and provide decisive leadership under pressure. His approach blends technical acumen with strategic thinking, enabling him to drive cost reductions, improve delivery timelines, enhance quality standards, and mitigate operational risks.

In his recent role as Business Head at Frontier Technologies, Viswanathan has successfully transitioned from a purely technical focus to a strategic business leadership role, where he manages budgets, optimizes resource allocation, drives profitability, and spearheads customer acquisition. Under his leadership, the company has experienced significant growth, including the introduction of multiple new customers and substantial increases in business volume. His ability to balance technical depth with business strategy has made him a valuable asset in both operational and executive capacities.



Company: Twin Star Metal Products Pvt. Ltd.
Position: Engineer – Quality
Tenure: 2 Years

At Twin Star Metal Products Pvt. Ltd., an export-oriented manufacturing unit specializing in stamped parts, press tools, jigs, fixtures, and receiver gauges, I worked as a Quality Engineer with end-to-end responsibility for ensuring product compliance to customer and international standards. Twin Star's in-house design-to-development infrastructure enabled complete control over the manufacturing process, and my role was to safeguard quality at every stage, from raw material inspection to final export shipment.

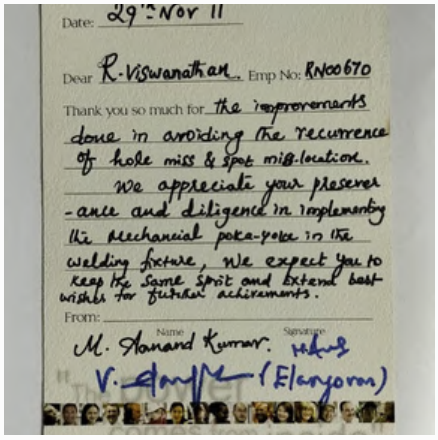
I managed incoming quality control for sub-supplier parts, conducting dimensional checks, visual inspections, and functional testing. In cases where non-conformances were identified, I immediately initiated countermeasure activities, coordinated with suppliers to identify root causes, and implemented corrective and preventive actions to avoid recurrence.

Within the production line, I acted as Line Quality In-charge, overseeing First / Middle / Last (F/M/L) approvals to ensure process stability and defect prevention. I regularly conducted line patrol inspections to monitor adherence to quality standards and detect any deviations before they reached subsequent production stages.

For all export-bound products, I was responsible for 100% final inspection to verify dimensional accuracy, surface finish, and functional performance. I also ensured that packaging met both product protection requirements and international shipping standards, maintaining high quality during transit to overseas customers.

In the area of new product development, I coordinated trial lot sample preparation and managed the approval process with customers. This involved reviewing engineering drawings, validating tooling, conducting process capability studies, and addressing customer feedback until the part was fully approved for mass production.

Through my work at Twin Star, I developed strong technical expertise in stamped component manufacturing, quality control methodologies, and customer coordination for export projects. My contribution directly supported the company's ability to deliver defect-free, high-precision components to global customers, reinforcing its reputation as a reliable export partner in the automotive and engineering industries.


Date: 29.Nov 11

Dear R.Viswanathan Emp No: RN00670

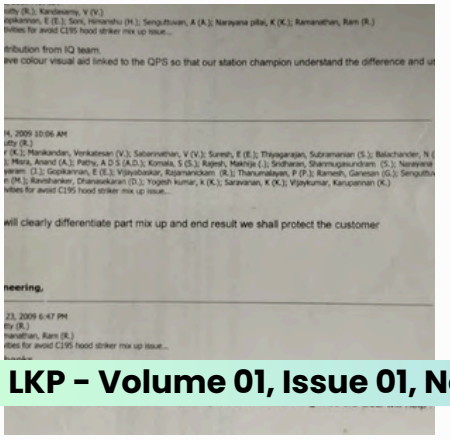
Thank you so much for the improvements done in avoiding the recurrence of hole miss & spot mislocation.

We appreciate your presever-ance and diligence in implementing the mechanical poka-yoke in the welding fixture, We expect you to keep the same spirit and extend best wishes for further achievements.

From:

Name: M. Anand Kumar. Signature:

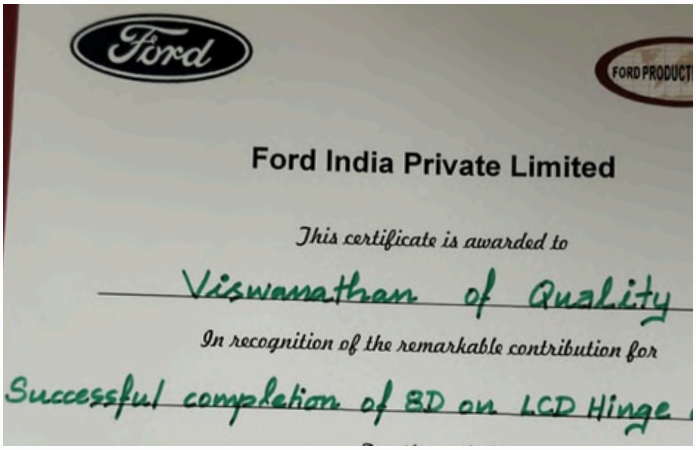
V. (Elangovan)


will clearly differentiate part mix up and end result we shall protect the customer

Company: Ford Motor Company
Position: Team Leader – Craftsman
Scope of Work: IQ Stamping / Body Shop / Paint Shop
In my role as Team Leader – Craftsman at Ford Motor Company, I was responsible for overseeing supplier part quality within the IQ Stamping, Body Shop, and Paint Shop functions, ensuring compliance with Ford's stringent global quality standards. Leading a team of four skilled members, I provided technical direction, coordinated supplier quality activities, and implemented corrective measures to maintain smooth, disruption-free production operations.
A key part of my role involved issuing Quality Reports (QR) to suppliers for identified part quality concerns and driving Immediate Containment Actions (ICA) to address these issues swiftly, thereby preventing recurrence and avoiding production line stoppages. I maintained a structured quality governance process by conducting weekly G8D reviews with suppliers to track corrective action progress, and by planning monthly countermeasure audits to verify the effectiveness of implemented solutions.

To further strengthen quality control, I conducted daily rejection review meetings with both suppliers and plant teams, analyzing rejection trends, identifying root causes, and initiating countermeasures. I collaborated closely with the Launch Team during new vehicle programs, coordinating 100% receiving inspection processes to ensure all incoming parts met specifications for vehicle build readiness.
In addition to part quality management, I took an active role in body accuracy analysis, identifying dimensional issues and implementing MIKOMI improvement plans to enhance body alignment and fit. As a cross-functional team member, I contributed to road test analysis, evaluating vehicle performance from a quality perspective and feeding insights back into the manufacturing and supplier improvement processes.
My role also involved preparing and circulating monthly PPM (Parts Per Million) performance reports to suppliers, driving a culture of continuous improvement and ensuring accountability for meeting Ford's quality benchmarks. Through consistent supplier engagement, proactive issue resolution, and structured monitoring, I played a significant role in improving part quality, reducing rejection rates, and supporting the successful launch and production of high-quality Ford vehicles.

During my tenure at Ford India Pvt. Ltd., I consistently delivered impactful solutions to complex quality and performance issues, earning multiple recognitions for my contributions to NVH (Noise, Vibration, and Harshness) improvement and overall vehicle quality enhancement. One of my key achievements was resolving the Fiesta Deader Pad sagging and falling issue, which had been affecting long-term durability and customer satisfaction. My innovative corrective measures not only eliminated the problem but also earned me the Best NVH Improvement Award. I was also instrumental in resolving the Fiesta Deck Lid Hinge creak noise issue, a persistent challenge impacting vehicle refinement, for which I again received recognition for NVH improvement. Additionally, I successfully addressed the Fiesta Door locking malfunction—caused by the fall cone clip popping out—by identifying the root cause, redesigning the retention mechanism, and implementing robust corrective actions. Beyond these specific problem resolutions, I actively participated in continuous improvement programs and was the recipient of several Best KAIZEN Awards from Ford India Pvt. Ltd., reflecting my commitment to innovation, process efficiency, and operational excellence. These achievements collectively reinforced Ford's reputation for delivering vehicles that meet the highest standards of quality, reliability, and customer satisfaction.


Ford

FORD PRODUCT

Ford India Private Limited

This certificate is awarded to

Viswanathan of Quality

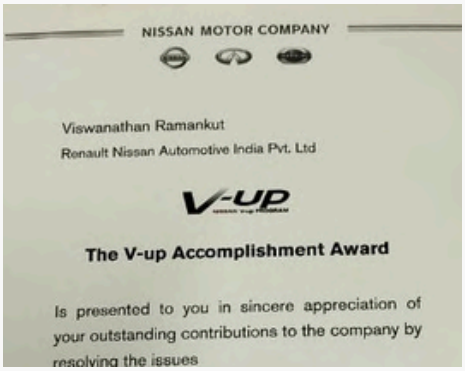
In recognition of the remarkable contribution for

Successful completion of 8D on LCD Hinge

Company: Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd – Chennai
Position: Assistant Manager – SQA New Projects / Sourcing / SCM Support
Tenure: June 2010 – July 2023
Over a 13-year tenure at Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL), I served as Assistant Manager in the Supplier Quality Assurance (SQA) function for new projects, with additional responsibilities in sourcing and supply chain management support. My role was central to the successful introduction of new vehicle models, supplier part development, and maintaining high standards of quality and delivery across the supply base.
I was directly responsible for managing 19 suppliers supplying Body-in-White (BIW) metal parts, a critical category in automotive manufacturing. This involved handling the development, validation, and approval of nearly 1,200 supplier parts for RNAIPL's production plant, covering a range of stamping panels, welded assemblies, and other structural components.

Throughout my career at RNAIPL, I was actively involved in 11 major new vehicle project launches from concept to mass production. This included supplier selection, part feasibility study, APQP process implementation, PPAP approval, and supplier readiness verification. I worked closely with suppliers to ensure that all parts met Renault Nissan's stringent global quality standards while adhering to project timelines.
My role demanded extensive coordination with multiple internal teams, including R&D, manufacturing, quality, and logistics, as well as external stakeholders such as tooling vendors and raw material suppliers. I frequently conducted supplier audits, process capability assessments, and root cause analysis for quality issues, implementing corrective and preventive actions to achieve zero-defect supplies.
Beyond quality assurance, I provided strategic sourcing support by evaluating supplier capabilities, optimizing sourcing decisions, and aligning supplier capacity with production forecasts. My involvement in the SCM function ensured smooth material flow from suppliers to the plant, minimizing delays and supporting lean manufacturing objectives.

RENAULT NISSAN



Successfully launching 11 major automotive projects without any significant start-of-production (SOP) delays.

Managing 1,200+ BIW parts with consistent adherence to quality, cost, and delivery (QCD) targets.

Driving supplier quality improvement initiatives that reduced rejection rates and enhanced process capability.

Building strong, long-term relationships with a diverse supplier base, enabling faster response to design changes and urgent requirements.

Through my work, I gained deep expertise in BIW manufacturing processes, supplier development, and new model introduction, contributing significantly to Renault Nissan's reputation for delivering high-quality vehicles to the market.

As Assistant Manager – SQA New Projects / PQA at Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd, I was entrusted with end-to-end responsibility for supplier development, quality assurance, and project launch readiness for Renault and Nissan vehicle programs. My work began with supplier sourcing assessment, where I evaluated vendors on technical capabilities, delivery track record, and quality performance to ensure only competent suppliers were onboarded. Once suppliers were selected, I oversaw the new project development phase, monitoring supplier readiness on a weekly basis against OT (Off Tool) / OP (Off Process) milestones, and ensuring that any slippage in plans was addressed immediately through close coordination with cross-functional teams (CFT).

To maintain operational efficiency, I ensured monthly production plans were communicated to suppliers on time and formal agreements were secured. This included stringent follow-up on Off Tool and Off Process completion, readiness of TO/TI/T2 samples, and ensuring their timely delivery to the plant for validation. I took complete ownership of PSW (Part Submission Warrant) approvals, ensuring that all submissions met the right quality levels and were completed on schedule, including for multiple Renault and Nissan minor projects where I acted as the overall project coordinator.

One of the major challenges I successfully overcame was during the HBC and PY1B projects, where supplier performance on OK ratio and OT/OP readiness was below acceptable levels, causing risks to project timelines. I took over leadership in these situations, driving targeted actions to improve part accuracy, accelerating OT/OP completion, and significantly improving delivery performance ratios.

In addition to normal project execution, I excelled in crisis management, ensuring uninterrupted operations even during major disruptions. These included severe weather events like heavy rainfall and the Vardah cyclone, the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and supplier manpower strikes such as the JBM strike. During such situations, I proactively arranged additional manpower, reallocated resources from other plants, maintained adequate stock levels to prevent line stoppages, and provided technical support to help suppliers resume operations quickly.

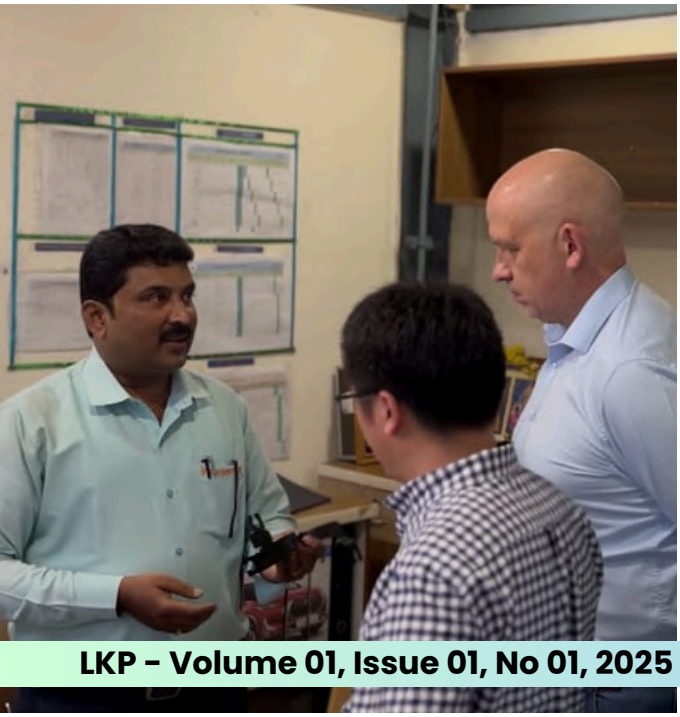
A notable example of my problem-solving capability was during the Nissan Magnite SOP phase, where the JBM supplier faced severe capacity constraints and could not meet OEM requirements. I devised a comprehensive recovery plan involving optimization of robot welding operations, introduction of additional process stages to cut cycle times, rearrangement of machinery for better workflow, and reduction of material flow time. This not only stabilized production but also enhanced supplier efficiency for long-term gains.

RENAULT NISSAN

A cornerstone of my approach has been developing stronger, more strategic relationships with suppliers, which directly resulted in reduced supplier costs and lower operational risks for the organization. My contributions and impact were recognized through multiple prestigious awards, including:

- Best New Project Development Award – presented by Biju, MD of RNAIPL.
- Less Lead Time Project Development & PSW Approval Award – from the DMD of RNAIPL.
- Cost Saving Activity Award – presented by the President & CEO of Nissan Motor Company.
- Best 3-3-3 Activity Support Award – recognition accompanied by a special lunch with RNTBCI MD.
- Best Train Activity Support Award – conferred by the DMD of RNTBCI.

Over my tenure, I consistently demonstrated the ability to deliver high-quality results under pressure, ensure on-time project launches, maintain uninterrupted production even in adverse conditions, and drive supplier capability improvements that contributed to Renault-Nissan's long-term success in the competitive automotive market.



LEADERSHIP

Company: Frontier Technologies
Position: Business Head
As the Business Head at Frontier Technologies, I have been responsible for spearheading business growth initiatives in the metal industry, with a focus on strategic expansion, revenue enhancement, and long-term partnership building. My role involves identifying and evaluating high-potential business opportunities, understanding market trends, and aligning company capabilities to meet customer demands effectively.
I collaborate extensively with cross-functional teams — including engineering, production, quality, and supply chain — to develop and implement strategic business plans that align with corporate objectives. These plans are designed to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen market positioning, and maximize profitability.

A key achievement during my tenure has been the successful introduction of 5 new customers into our business portfolio, combined with securing 7 active customer orders. This pipeline expansion has been instrumental in driving an overall 75% business growth in FY24 Q2, a milestone that reflects both market trust and our internal capability to deliver.
In addition to business development, I focus heavily on relationship management — building and maintaining strong, trust-based partnerships with potential and existing clients. This relationship-focused approach ensures repeat business, long-term contracts, and a stronger industry reputation.
Another highlight of my leadership was receiving formal appreciation from the RNTBCI team for exceptional support in rapid prototype development. Within a challenging deadline, my team and I successfully developed 14 proto samples, each comprising 100 units, in just 15 days. This achievement showcased our capability for quick turnaround without compromising on quality, further strengthening client confidence in our services.
By combining strategic foresight, operational discipline, and a customer-first approach, I have been able to position Frontier Technologies for sustainable growth while fostering an environment of innovation and excellence.

SCAN ME

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