

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stephen Tully and I'm the Senior Director of Systems Engineering at Activ Surgical in Boston, MA. I've known Andrew (Andy) Whitehead while working at two employers: first at Medrobotics in Raynham, MA where we collaborated on the design and manufacturing of a flexible surgical robotic system. Later, Andy was hired by Activ Surgical where I eventually became his manager within the Product Development group in R&D. At Activ Surgical, Andy implemented design and manufacturing improvements to our commercial product ActivSight, which is a device that provides advanced visualizations to physicians performing minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery.

Andy Whitehead is a hardworking engineer who is invested in his work. Andy is proficient at coming up with intuitive and clever design solutions that solve product issues and/or improve manufacturing. He is invested in the projects he works on and in my time working with Andy, I can tell that he is genuinely committed to seeing his projects become successful and transfer into a completed commercial design. During one project, Andy created and evaluated a number of prototype designs for a re-processable fiber light guide adapter assembly for our medical device. Andy efficiently down-selected his initial designs, ran through feasibility testing of candidate prototypes, selected the design that met our requirements, implemented the formal drawings with final UDI labeling for a finished-good medical device, and transferred the assembly to a manufacturer. He prioritized DFM (design for manufacturing) and DFA (design for assembly) to ensure the manufacturing of the part was optimized. In such a project, Andy had exposure to many phases of the development cycle and provided ownership of the project from start to finish. In the end, the reliability of the device well exceeded our requirements while also hitting a material cost that was below our expectations. Andy's work had a direct impact on rolling out an improvement to our existing commercial product and ultimately will improve the customer experience.

Andy thrives in a well-structured development environment. He is task oriented and performs best when guidance is provided by management during a project, but he also has experience navigating fast-paced and agile work environments like a startup. Andy, through his extensive experience, knows what it takes to design and manufacture a finished medical device under regulations imposed by the FDA. When it comes to the development of mechanical designs or manufacturing processes, Andy understands the processes: from design control to corrective actions to formal test protocols/reports to requirements management and manufacturing assembly procedures.

I'm pleased to provide this recommendation letter for Andy Whitehead, who I have confidence will become an asset at his next position. Thank you!



Stephen Tully
Sr. Director, Systems Engineering
Activ Surgical, Boston, MA
stully@activsurgical.com