ALEX VRBKA

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SUMMARY

Dedicated and skilled UAS and AI Product Manager with proven expertise in handling all phases of product life cycles. Experienced UAS pilot with hundreds of commercial and R&D hours as the pilot in command. Works effectively with customers, senior leaders, and vendors to coordinate efficient development phases and product releases.

EXPERIENCE

UAS Product Manager — Valmont *August 2022 – Present*

- Manage and lead multiple UAS-centric products at Valmont Utilities, including sensor installation, coatings, at-height pressure washing, and Drone-in-a-box program
- Partner with vendors to develop AI systems for autonomous flight capabilities
- Plan the creation and maintenance of ideas, workflows, and roadmap products in Jira
- Develop custom UAS solutions for vendor requests from ideation to implementation, including prototyping, test flights, and customer presentations and demos
- Produce payload prototypes for unmanned systems using CAD software in conjunction with 3D printing and CNC machining to rapidly test and deploy custom solutions

UAS Research and Development Pilot — Valmont *March 2021 – August 2022*

- Built and flew multiple different custom payloads for unique missions, including tetherless pressure washers, at-height measuring, and conductor measurement
- Conducted flight missions as the pilot in command for over 500 commercial flight hours of non-research data collection including thermal, LiDAR, RGB, and NDVI

Student Researcher — University of Nebraska Omaha *January 2020 – August 2020*

- Developed a runway incursion prevention device that used both RTK-GPS and LoRa radio for use in general aviation airports. This project was developed and funded by the FAA through the Airport Cooperative Research Program
- Utilized C++ and various development boards to alert pilots and personnel to possible runway incursion during taxi, takeoff, and landing operations

EDUCATION

B.S. in **Aviation**; Concentration in **Unmanned Aircraft Systems** — University of Nebraska Omaha
December 2021

SKILLS

Technical: UAS piloting, equipment design and construction, product lifecycle management, mechanical design practices and procedures, CAD programs, SLA and FDM printing, prototyping, advanced computer systems skills, roadmap development in Jira

Non-technical: OSHA regulations and safety compliance, risk assessment and mitigation, ability to work under pressure, critical thinking and problem solving