Stephan Bester

Technical Operations · Engineering · Procurement · Projects

Available immediately · authorized to work without sponsorship

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Professional profile

Multiskilled technical and business professional with a career that began in 1991 across marine engineering, automotive procurement and exports, product development, business ownership, building maintenance, law enforcement and protective security. Combines independent hands-on troubleshooting and repair with CAD, cost analysis, supplier management, technical documentation and project delivery.

Marine engineering

Private and charter yachts 2012 to Aug 2026

Sole Engineer, then Chief Engineer · 15 years · private and charter yachts, 33 to 58 m

- Sole Engineer appointments from 2012 to March 2017; Chief Engineer appointments after MCA certification in March 2017.
- Engines and generators: MTU, Caterpillar, Deutz, Kohler and John Deere; servicing, injectors, turbochargers, cooling and rebuilds. Generator diagnostics, synchronisation, load sharing and power management.
- Hybrid and diesel-electric plant; high-voltage and hybrid testing; 12 to 24 VDC, 100 to 1,600 VDC and 110 to 480 VAC.
- HVAC and refrigeration, hydraulics, water makers, control-system programming, VSAT, Starlink and networks.
- Planned maintenance with IDEA, Seahub and MARAD; Class and Flag survey preparation; internal ISM audit support.
- Technical procurement, quote comparison, budget forecasts and monthly reports. Managed Amanti's US$2.1 million annual engineering budget and nine-month refit.

Graycliffs (Feadship, 50 m) · Scintilla Maris (Damen, 45 m) · Andiamo II (Pershing, 33 m) · Unbridled (Trinity, 58 m) · Oceanos (Mondomarine, 52 m) · Casino Royale / Lady Elaine (Christensen, 50 m) · Amanti (Feadship, 52 m) · Ninkasi (Holland Jachtbouw, 45 m) · Coquette (Benetti, 41 m) · Sin or Swim (Azimut, 35 m).

Skills

Mechanical and electrical diagnostics	10/10
Engines, generators, hybrid plant	10/10
Technical procurement and suppliers	9/10
Refits, commissioning and projects	9/10
Cost estimation and budgeting	8/10
CAD and fabrication	8/10

Strengths

- Independent troubleshooter
- Learns new systems fast
- Clear communicator
- Takes ownership

Achievements

- 45% cost cut and almost two weeks off lead time through a Nissan packaging change.
- Built the IDEA maintenance system on M/Y Graycliffs from scratch.
- Managed a US$2.1 million engineering budget and nine-month refit.
- Nine DisplayPrep board models taken from concept to market.

Languages

100%	100%	35%	35%
English	Afrikaans	Zulu	N. Sotho
Fluent	Fluent	Basic	Basic

Interests

- Landscape photography
- Architectural photography

Business and product development

DisplayPrep.com — Jan 2024 to present

Founder and Product Developer · independent venture · products on sale from Sep 2026

- Designed nine portable food preparation and presentation board models and built a physical prototype of each.
- Fusion 360 assemblies, drawings and renderings; manufacturing drawings, bills of materials, assembly instructions and inspection checklists.
- Load, stability, durability, cleaning, chemical-exposure and food-use trials, with feedback from seven testers.
- Fabricates HDPE and aluminium extrusion assemblies; supplier and lead-time comparisons, unit costing and manufacture-to-order planning.
- Built and runs the website and online shop, including copy, photography, video and order and after-sales procedures.

Plan B Projects — Approx. 2010 to 2013

Co-owner, 50% · Pretoria, South Africa · building maintenance

- Two-person business: repairs, recurring maintenance, emergency callouts and installations for corporate and institutional clients.
- Electrical circuits, distribution boards, motors, CCTV and access control, plumbing, boilers, waterproofing, cabinetry, tiling, welding and fabrication; AutoCAD drawings and estimates.
- Clients included Group Five, Blue Bulls, University of Pretoria, UNISA and Netcare hospitals.

Prospective Ice — Approx. 2010 to 2013

Founder and sole owner · Pretoria, South Africa · ice manufacture and distribution

- About 36 recurring customers: shops, restaurants, wholesalers, gas stations, event planners and a rugby union.
- 18 mainly Hoshizaki machines with about nine tons of combined daily capacity; two employees and seven-day operations.
- Maintained machines, compressors, pumps, cold rooms and controls; managed water filtration, UV treatment and solar backup.
- Secured recurring stadium supply of seven to nine tons per rugby match.

Qualifications and training

MCA Chief Engineer Y3 / SV	Mar 2017, to 2027
Cayman, Marshall Islands and Jamaica endorsements	held
STCW and ENG1	to 2028
Project Management, Univ. of Pretoria	2012
Senior Certificate, Montana High School	1990

Also: MTU manufacturer training, Netherlands high-voltage training, and police courses in investigations, tactical response, K9, protection and diving. Certificate copies on request.

Software

AutoCAD 2D · Fusion 360 · SAP · Nissan FAST · IDEA · Seahub · MARAD · Microsoft Office and advanced Excel · Visual Basic · Adobe Lightroom · Filmora

Work preferences

Available immediately for technical, operational, procurement, project, quality, design, manufacturing or business roles, as individual contributor or manager. Hands-on or office, shifts, weekends and emergency callouts. Travel up to two weeks per trip; relocation considered. Florida driving licence.

Earlier career

Nissan South Africa — Jun 1998 to Nov 2010

Parts and Accessories Division · Pretoria · five sequential appointments

- Dealer Liaison Officer, Local Parts Purchaser, International Parts Purchaser, Component Export Specialist, then Manager, Parts and Accessories Cataloging.
- Supported about 220 dealerships across six countries; managed about 85 suppliers and ZAR 1.8 million of monthly purchasing; RFQs, bid comparison and negotiation.
- Packaging and delivery change cut combined costs by a measured 45% and lead time by almost two weeks.
- Overseas sourcing, factory visits and ISO 9001 audits in North America, Europe, Egypt, South Korea and Japan; TSW wheel and vehicle-kit exports to Egypt.
- Led a team of two on nine vehicle-model catalogues (about 800 drawings per model) in Nissan FAST; 2D AutoCAD illustrations; SAP bill-of-materials uploads and data migration.
- Two training visits to Japan, six and eight weeks.

South African Police Service — Jan 1991 to Jan 1998

Constable through Major · Pretoria and assignments across South Africa

- Visible policing, criminal investigations, K9, endangered-species investigations, tactical response and VIP protection.
- Handled up to 64 active cases; case files, evidence custody and testimony in regional and higher courts.
- Personal protection to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: advance checks, route planning and threat assessment.
- Police diving training in 1994 and underwater evidence recovery.

SBV Services — Early 1998

Security officer · cash-in-transit · about two months

EMS Specialists — Approx. 2010 to 2013

Volunteer ambulance assistant · Pretoria · weekends

- Ambulance stocking, scene assistance, triage and patient comfort under supervision.

References

Available from yacht captains and the ship commissioning team.

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