

“Helping others, I think that’s where it all starts. Just don’t forget to look after yourself.”

Introduction

Avanti is one of the UK’s leading satellite operators that provide high speed data communication services across the UK, Europe, Middle East and Africa. Its first satellite Hylas 1 launched in 2009, with a total of three satellites placed in orbit as of August 2018. Their Ka-Band payload services are utilised by ISPs, Governments, and Mobile Network Operators.



Image: **Jon Evans**, Spacecraft Controller – Avanti Communications PLC

How did you get started in your career?

With a very memorable interview at Goonhilly, featuring some impromptu role-play for an ice-cream delivery company! Following this I was given the opportunity to join the company’s Technical Support team. After two years working with different partners, their engineers, and other departments within the company I was accepted into the Satellite Operations Control team as a Satellite Controller.

Can you outline a typical work day?

We provide oversight to the fleet of three satellites (Hylas 1, 2 and 4) and work as part of a larger team that look after the systems both on the ground and on the spacecraft, whilst ensuring each remain in their respective geosynchronous orbits.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Throughout my time here I’ve had the pleasure of working with a lot of wonderful people, they have been a great source of inspiration and encouragement. Aside from the many experiences gained, I have also had the opportunity to work both here at Goonhilly Earth Station, and in our London offices.

What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

No matter what you do in life skills are things you will continually improve on. Wherever you go, and whomever you meet you always find teachers. As long as you have a passion for learning, communication skills are the main one you’ll need.

What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

A good balance of the ones that would serve you well anywhere: Honesty, kindness and patience.

Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

Plans are all well and good, but mice and men both seem to have difficulty with them! Talking to people is really important, as you never know where you’ll go in life and a conversation is sometimes all it takes.

What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

It depends what the individual is looking for, how they define themselves and their goals. I have been very lucky to have lived and worked in a place where new experiences arrive on a daily basis. Whilst moving to a new department can certainly provide a change in the daily routine, it's also a chance to work with new people, appreciate their perspectives and meet new challenges together.

Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

Certainly, a more positive approach to giving people without experience a chance to enter the workplace is important. However, hobbies, passions and charity work can provide a wealth of experience in not only growing critical thinking but creativity. The benefits to which are far more important to not only the development of individuals but that of the whole, rather than it is to simply prepare young minds for a life in industry.

What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants

It's not so much about the predicting trends, but the sharing of experiences; this is something we do throughout our lives. Teachers take many different forms, as do the challenges. The industry is no exception, and like any other challenge or obstacle that we must overcome, there are many lessons that working in, moving beyond, and reflecting upon teaches.

General words of advice

As someone who has been around technology from a very early age, I've found spending time in nature is one of the most beneficial things you can do.

After moving to Cornwall I joined the Cinnamon Trust, a Nationwide charity that helps the elderly with their pets. I'm happy to say it's been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. That said, there are many local charities, animal shelters, even the National Trust offers many experiences to those looking to help.

A CV isn't so much a record of what you've done, as it is how you've helped.

Further contact/information

For more details on Avanti please visit our website : <https://www.avantiplc.com/>

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