

MIT 2005 - Essay #5 for LFM

Why do you wish to pursue the LFM Program and, in particular, the engineering program you selected? How does this fit with your future plans?

I always was – and still am – fascinated by modern technology and how it affects our everyday life. Originally, I wanted to devote myself to fundamental sciences. Yet, guided by experience, I've gradually reevaluated and adjusted my pursuits to concentrate on the particular aspects of technology management and implementation that best fit my personal strengths and aspirations.

I believe that the LFM Program offers a winning combination of business and technical education which would perfectly complement my background and work experience. The Management component could provide me with better overall understanding of the human factors in technology development, while formal training in Engineering Systems would strengthen my ability to find and integrate the optimal technical solutions.

Unfortunately, in our world of extreme specialization, it is increasingly rare when those in charge of company operations have sufficient background to deal with the complex technical issues they often encounter. On numerous occasions, I've witnessed vastly inferior products and technologies being chosen based on nothing but hype or by simply selecting the least expensive option. I present one such example in Essay #4. I've also seen breakthrough propositions being shelved purely out of budgetary considerations or because of internal politics.

What I've come to realize is that the only way to have a real impact on the way things work is by getting personally involved in Business Development and Planning. This is the direction in which I've been steering my career over the past couple of years, starting with the experience described in Essay #1. However, given my largely technical background, I feel that an MBA from Sloan, a top school in Technology Management, would give me the skills that I need to further advance along this path.

My formal education in Mechanical Engineering, as well as my extensive background in Computer Science, Physics, and Math, have certainly helped me gain the interdisciplinary skills that my employers needed, yet provided little in terms of overall structure. Throughout my career, I've worked on projects that required me to gain expertise in areas as varied as rocket guidance controls, gun interior ballistics, automotive airbag performance optimization, household refrigerator design, and computer hardware integration. Getting an advanced degree in Engineering Systems from MIT, the undisputed leader in technical education, could put all the diverse knowledge that I've acquired over the years into perspective.

Armed with good understanding of organizational dynamics and management, combined with a better grasp of the place of technology in the modern world, I would be able to rejoin the industry in a new capacity and at a higher level. This would provide me with a capability to make a real difference by defending and promoting truly innovative technology. I'm also looking to transition into a more dynamic field, such as sensor technology or microprocessor manufacturing. Among the LFM industry partners, I am most intrigued by the possibilities presented by Honeywell and United Technologies, the two companies that I've worked with and for which I have a lot of admiration.

Being employed by a large, diversified corporation would allow me to get exposure to the kinds of opportunities that are available within different industries as well as the technological and operational challenges involved. In the long run, I will be on the outlook for a new market in which I could branch out and do things on my own. I believe that the LFM Program would provide me with the necessary background, connections, and self-confidence to be truly successful in such an endeavor.