



Nick Dollin
27
RF Engineer
Tait Electronics Ltd

Like many who get into engineering, Nick was interested in pulling things apart and seeing how they worked. So after studying things like maths, physics and tech drawing at school, Nick went on to gain a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Canterbury. Initially he thought he'd end up in mechanical engineering, but in the end chose electronics because he found it very intriguing.

As part of his degree, Nick completed 140 hours working at Stanbury Electrical in Christchurch and 4RF in Wellington. This experience and the theoretical knowledge he gained at university left Nick itching to get into the workforce and his hands stuck into an ICT career.

Luckily for Nick, getting a job was no sweat. "I had three job offers, including one from overseas, but I chose to stay in Christchurch. I enjoy skiing and the outdoors, so I like the Christchurch lifestyle."

Nick's work at Tait is specific to the electrical circuitry involved in receiving RF signals. "I might be simulating circuits, soldering components or measuring circuitry. About 50% of my time is working on the computer or test equipment and the other 50% of my time is more hands on." Nick really enjoys this variety and flexibility. "Often people in software only get to work on software, but as a hardware engineer, I sometimes get to work on software as well."

For Nick it's really rewarding when a new product is released and customer orders start flowing through the door. "That's when what you've been working on becomes real." The only hard part about his job is when things don't work. "Sometimes there's a big gap between theory and reality – and that's where problem solving comes in." He adds that in these circumstances it's great to work at an organisation such as Tait, where he's surrounded by so much technical expertise and assistance.

It would seem that Tait put a lot of effort into developing their engineers. They have a mentor programme that Nick says helps sharpen problem-solving skills and bridge the gap between university and reality. Nick, who's in his 6th year at Tait, is pleased to be mentoring one of the new graduates.

In the years to come, Nick would like to get involved with high-level product design as a systems engineer or perhaps get into digital design working with high speed digital circuits. Whatever he decides, it seems that with a supportive employer like Tait, his future will be bright.