

Jeff J. Ronning, PE

VP Hybrid Technology



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Experience Summary

Jeff J. Ronning, PE – Currently VP Hybrid Technology and thermal systems expert for Bright Automotive, Inc., Mr. Ronning has extensive experience in automotive systems development, thermal and fluid dynamics, and chemical modeling tools rooted in physical validation. Since 1995, Mr. Ronning has been a pioneer and an industry thought leader in plug-in hybrid architecture, research and design.

Before joining Bright Automotive, Mr. Ronning served as Senior Consultant at Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), providing advanced systems engineering and design concept validation in multiple industries and market sectors. He provided technical direction for various clients to maximize vehicle efficiency and architecture selection. While at RMI, he developed design parameters for two unique PHEVs and performed research in “vehicle-to-grid” (V2G) systems. He also served on the energy and emissions working group for the Automotive X-Prize.

Prior to RMI, Mr. Ronning was part of the advanced propulsion team at Delphi Corporation (1991–2006). This team developed the electric-propulsion system for GM’s EV1. He was the thermal scientist for the battery and electric drive systems and several following hybrid vehicle programs. In 1997, Mr. Ronning initiated and was the technical leader for a “Skunk Works” team that converted an EV1 to a PHEV. He also performed hybrid vehicle and fuel cell system simulations and designed high-performance, liquid-cooled heat sinks for power electronics.

Prior to Delphi, Mr. Ronning worked for General Motors Research Labs, Thermal Sciences Department (1990–1991). He performed thermal modeling in support of the department’s research projects. His prior assignment was at the GM Technical Center (1989–1990). Mr. Ronning began his engineering career in 1986 with his father’s firm, Ronning Engineering Company, where he designed and developed efficient industrial dehydration systems.

Mr. Ronning received a B.S. Mechanical Engineering from Kansas State University in 1988. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Indiana and served as an SAE Industrial Lectureship Speaker in 1998. He has authored many publications, including a seminal 1997 PHEV work “The Viable Environmental Car: The Right Combination of Electrical and Combustion Energy for Transportation,” SAE 971629. Mr. Ronning holds eight U.S. patents, primarily related to hybrid and electric vehicle components and systems.