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Kevin J. Davey | 37

Vice president, quality assurance
Argo-Tech Corp.

Kevin Davey is a man of many interests. He has run in several local marathons, and while he is no threat to Frank Shorter, he enjoys the rigors of preparing for a race. He also has written software that he uses to speculate in futures trading in currencies, agricultural commodities and Treasury notes.

"This year, I am showing a 148% return," he said.

Mr. Davey also wrote and sells software called the "Car Lease Calculator" that has received kudos in the financial press for helping users determine the best vehicle lease terms.

"I sell it today, but it is by no means lucrative enough to quit my day job," Mr. Davey said.

In his day job as vice president of quality assurance at Argo-Tech Corp., Mr. Davey is responsible for product quality in an industry that demands perfection. Euclid-based Argo-Tech designs and manufactures aircraft fuel pumps. Fran St. Clair, Argo-Tech's chief financial officer, said Mr. Davey has a critical role at the company.

"Aerospace is an unforgiving industry — expectations when it comes to quality are very high and there is no room for mistakes," Ms. St. Clair said. "Kevin has developed good solutions for building quality into the products. You can inspect quality in, but that is very, very expensive."

Mr. Davey said his approach to his job is to "build teamwork between production and engineering" and to marry product design with tightly controlled manufacturing systems.

Ms. St. Clair described Mr. Davey as "a very smart guy and a very bright engineer."

"But what is refreshing about him is that he is practical and approachable," she said. ➤

Mr. Davey graduated from the University of Michigan in 1988 with a degree in aerospace engineering. He also holds an MBA from Case Western Reserve University.

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He has worked in the aerospace industry since 1988, first as a design engineer for Rockwell International Inc. and later for L'Garde Inc., a California builder of inflatable aerospace structures.

He joined Argo-Tech in 1994 as a senior product engineer. Mr. Davey was named manager of quality assurance in 2000 and director of quality assurance last year.

—David Prizinsky