

Don Whitacre is a senior manager for technical development at Novelis North America, leading the Novelis' automotive Customer Solution Center for North America, that develops lightweight, cost-effective solutions for automotive body-in-white, closure and battery enclosure structures. In his career, he's worked directly with nearly every U.S. and European mass-production and luxury automotive OEM in the world on implementing lightweight aluminum designs.

Don's automotive industry experience spans three decades and two continents. His career began in 1988 as a product development engineer at General Motors, where he was responsible for design, development and launch of body structure systems in Saturn vehicles.

After a decade at General Motors, Don joined Alcoa Inc. and Compass Automotive for 18 years, where he held engineering manager and director positions in both North America and Europe. He led teams to develop efficient but practical aluminum solutions for both body and chassis applications, at a time when metal grew was embraced by the industry.

Don has two named aluminum casting patents in his portfolio, co-authored papers for the Society for Automotive Engineers and led the team that developed an industry-first hollow front steering knuckle that won an American Foundry Society "Best-in-Class" Design and People's Choice Award.

Don holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering design and a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from University of Michigan.

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