

American Friends of Arts & Metiers ParisTech
Attn: Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC
540 Cowper Street, Suite 200
Palo Alto, CA 94301-18069



Dear American Friends of Arts & Metiers ParisTech,

I hereby, Eric BOULVARD, give my full authorization to publish the content of this letter on your website in recognessence of the financial support that you have provided me with.

Full Name: Eric Boulevard

Date: 10/28/10

Signature Eric

1. Name of student, background, professional aspirations (1 paragraph, 5 lines)

My name is Eric Boulevard and I am currently a second year student at Arts et Métiers ParisTech. I had been selected to get a Master's Degree in Methods and Materials for Environmental Sustainability and in the same time a Research Master in Mechanical Engineering and Energy Systems at Arts et Métiers ParisTech at Bordeaux. I had the opportunity to do a long internship abroad thanks to this Master's Degree. I wanted do it in a business related to the Clean Technology industry, field where I would like to work on later.

2. Please tell us how you were able to get your internship, and the date and length of your stay (1 paragraph, 5 lines)

After contacting several former students from Arts et Métiers ParisTech in California (members of AFAM) I have been aware of a great green start up called Potter Drilling, Inc. I was very interested in the application. It was exactly the type of company that I wanted to apply. That is why I contacted an AFAM member, Olivier Brozowski, who had a Technical Program Manager position at Potter Drilling, Inc. Hopefully there were about to hired some new interns. So I started the application process. After a few interviews and other application processes I have been informed that I was hired from the end of June 2010 to the end of January 2011.

3. Please present the company or university where you interned and the objectives of your internship (1 paragraph, 10 lines), and why you were excited to work there. (1 paragraph, 10 lines)

The firm is a start up developing a none-contact drilling technology using hot steam to drill through hard rock, such as granite, in order to reach deep depth. The aim is to reduce the cost of drilling compared to conventional mechanical drilling systems to make the geothermal energy competitive with coal or gas power. Their biggest investors are the Department Of Energy, the MIT and Google. The technology is very promising. When I joined, the team had completed the lab evaluation of the technology and was preparing to test it in the field under real life conditions.

Beside the fact that firm is very interesting, California was moreover one of the first locations that I was targeted. In fact this state has tried for several years to develop sustainable activities. And the Silicon Valley has turned a part of its businesses into those Cleantech opportunities. Thus I couldn't find a better place to do an internship.

4. Please tell us which expenses which will be covered by the funds provided by American Friends of Arts et Metiers (1 paragraph, 5 lines)

The J-1 visa is pretty expensive to obtain. It's around 1100 Euros. The flight tickets are also expensive. Then when I arrived I had to give the equivalent of 2 rents for my room in San Francisco and I had to

buy several things such as a bike and a US cell phone. The funds provided by AFAM were very useful to cover my purchases for the first months.

5. Please summarize your internship, how you achieved the company/university's objectives (1 paragraph, 5 lines), as well as your own personal goals and lessons from this experience (1 paragraph, 5 lines), and finally how this impacted your professional aspirations (1 paragraph, 5 lines).

At first I was in charge of several small projects which allowed me to get familiar with the company, the team and the name of every device they were working with. Then I started learning how to use some equipment that I have never used. Thanks to this new experience I have been able to assist a senior mechanical engineer in the design and building of lab equipment that could resist to high temperature and pressure. The goal was to test the technology at small scale and to pursue a critical test program as the company was relying on the interpretation of those tests to improve the efficiency of the drilling process.

After having set the lab equipment, I was the main engineer in charge of the tests' experimental work and result analysis. I quickly was placed in a situation which involved significant technical responsibilities.

In parallel I was also exposed to several project management and engineering tools such as JIRA (Issue Tracking) or Solidworks EPDM (Product Data Management), which I found interesting. For instance I assisted in the configuration and migration of solid models into Solidworks EPDM to improve the efficiency of the collaborative work and make the firm ready to growth.

The fact that the company was a start up was a great way to work on a very large number of different steps of a project starting from the design phase, simulation and modeling, manufacturing, testing, troubleshooting, data analysis and finally the creation of technical reports.

Moreover I learned a lot of things concerning the geothermal energy and drilling technologies. Because I was in charge of technical issues it had allowed me to understand the different milestones to reach in order to develop the geothermal industry.

I think this internship has been a great way to highlight and improve my mechanical and energy systems background that I started to develop at Arts et Métiers ParisTech. I have been working with people from different departments that taught me different aspects of how a High Tech firm is running and I think that will be a strong asset for my future professional life.