

# HEIJKANT WORKS



### Project Management | Engineer

Engineering projects from A to Z - with tight budgets and ambitious plannings.



### Mechanical | Product Design

From innovative machine design to consumer products.



#### Conceptual | Detailed Design

Detailing fresh ideas those into realistic designs - ready for production.



#### 3D | 2D CAD Modelling

Advanced skills in Creo and Solidworks (solid, surface, sheet metal).



#### Prototyping | Testing

Hands on approach bringing design to life and making them work.



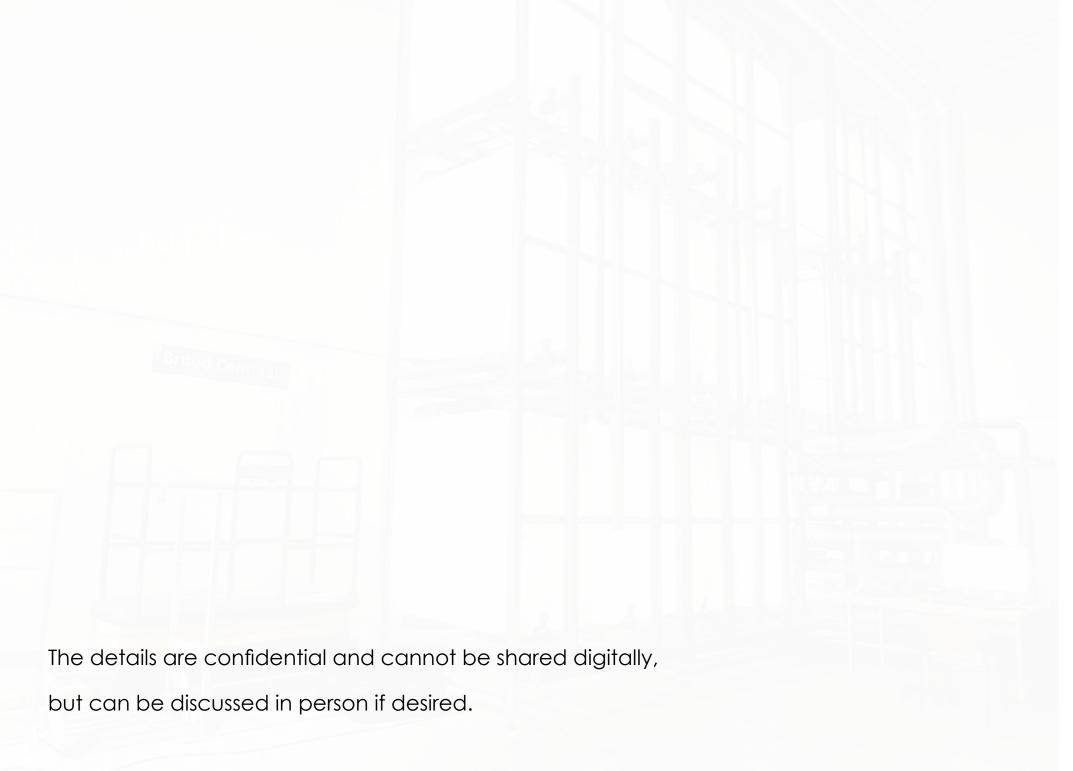
### Patent Specialist | Support

Guidance through FTO analyses, patent drafting, and effective IP strategies.



#### Ruud van den Heijkant

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## 2020 – 2025 Sr. Design engineer @ Protix

Protix upcycles food waste into protein ingedrients for feed using insects; a groundbreaking industry full of opportunities but with little established knowledge. I was responsible for developing new breeding equipment, combining a wide range of techniques including injection, blow, and roto molding; sheet metal and structural work; water and air handling; measurement and control systems; and PLC software. Key activities:

- Project management
- Concept development (products and machinery)
- 3D modelling (Solidworks)
- PLC automation
- CE Compliancy Machine safety directive
- Prototyping and testing
- Data management (PDM)
- 2 Patents filed by name



## 2014 – 2020 Sr. Design engineer @ Thetford

Thetford produces sanitairy systems for recreational vehicles. I was responsible for the full development process; from sketch to production. I started with cost-driven redesigns and progressed to complex R&D projects. I became the youngest senior engineer in the department and later a team leader. We developed a completely new (waste) water management system for RV's. Key activities:

- Project management
- Concept development
- 3D CAD modeling (Creo)
- Embedded automation
- Prototyping and testing
- 6 Patents filed by name









### 2018 - 2025

### Founder @ Qurkies BV

When I became a father, I was struck by the amount of plastic used in toys. As a design engineer, I believed it could be done differently. I wanted to reimagine an iconic plastic toy using natural materials — and that's how the idea for Qurkies was born.

Qurkies are made from cork: a natural, soft, and quiet material that's also compatible with Duplo. The concept started in 2017, and one year later, the Kickstarter campaign was successfully funded. That's when the real work began — founding the company, developing the product, designing packaging, building a webshop, and more. I did it all myself.

In 2025, I sold the company to a new owner who is now continuing the journey. Overall, it was a deeply rewarding experience that taught me a great deal about entrepreneurship—and even more about myself. Visit www.qurkies.com for more info.



### 2011 - 2014

### Design engineer @ Pagter

Pagter produces transport packaging for cut-flowers. At the R&D department, I was responsible for the full product development cycle. This included designing innovative transport solutions, optimizing material use, and improving the nestability of existing products. I also managed production quality and the procurement of machines and tooling. Key activities:

- 3D CAD modeling (Creo)
- FEM and mold flow simulations
- Sourcing of injection molds
- Prototyping and testing
- Quality control
- 2 Patents filed by name



## Education, internships, courses

2025	Solid Edge training @ Enginia
2024	Machine safety @ Viro engineering
2023	Lean six sigma 'green belt' @ LSS Group
2019	Design for circular economy @ TU Delft
2018	Patent specialist @ GO Opleidingen
2012	Mold design for plastics B @ Mikrocentrum
2010	Graduation project 'Titanium folding bike' @ Van Nicholas Bicycles
2009	Workshop I Do @ School of Design, Hong Kong
2007 – 2010	Master + Premaster Industrial Design @ TU Delft
2006 - 2007	Automation engineer @ Looije Agro technics
2006	Graduation project 'Pigeon clay shooter' @ MAT Cape Town
2002 – 2006	Bachelor Mechanical engineering @ Avans Tilburg
2005	Engineering internship @ Holmatro