

"Part science, part management..."

Bio-economy Career Profile

Position: Manufacturing Chemist

Name: Boris Novikov

Company: Anod-Tech Finishing Inc.

Salary Range: \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year



What I do:

I have been working for Anod-Tech Finishing Inc. for a year and a half. Anod-Tech finishes (anodizing, conversion coating, and painting) parts for the aerospace industry. Some of the company's notable customers include Boeing and Bombardier.

My day-to-day work includes overseeing all duties connected to the chemical process. I ensure that the quality of the product is in compliance with the customer specifications' requirements. My position is part analysis and development in the laboratory, and part management of technicians and operators related to the production processes. I spend about 60 per cent of my day in the laboratory and 40 per cent on the manufacturing floor.

What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

I have a Masters of Chemistry Degree from the former USSR, majoring in Chemical Science. I have also upgraded my skills in Canada in the pharmaceuticals industry as an Analytical Chemist.

My position requires a strong background in chemistry and good communication skills to explain basic chemistry to the technicians. The safe use of chemicals in the manufacturing process is an ongoing issue for my company.

As a Manufacturing Chemist, you also need good computer skills, as there is a lot of paperwork and document writing.

To get a job in the industry, I would encourage you to get as much background in chemistry as you can. When entering the workforce, look around for opportunities to gain knowledge of industries with which you are unfamiliar and work hard at lifelong learning.

What are the best parts of your job?

I find my work very interesting. I have gained great understanding about an industry of which I had no practical prior knowledge. Being a recent immigrant, I was unsure of how my skills and abilities would translate in Canada. Since working for Anod-Tech, I realize that my background and knowledge was acceptable, and my skills are in demand in Canada.