

DSE Founding History

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About Dos Santos Engineering

Dos Santos Engineering, LLC was founded to deliver focused structural and mechanical engineering services to industrial clients â?? building on the deep engineering expertise of the Dos Santos family and staff.

DSE provides engineering services to industrial facilities, equipment suppliers, and project contractors. DSE does not supply equipment; our scope is engineering.

The history below, written by DSEâ??s founding principal Joseph A. Dos Santos, tells the story of the professional journey and company founding that led to the engineering capabilities DSE brings to every project today.

Our Founderâ??s Story, by Joseph A. Dos Santos

From my carefree early childhood, first in Portugal until age 8, then in the USA, I wondered about God and my relationship with Him, and the world and my place in it. As I grew and matured, I gravitated physically to athletics and intellectually to math and science. In the former, I relished the competition, while in the latter I possibly saw a path towards understanding life and worth. I was always fascinated by the composition. While many people are happy to occupy their space without a need to justify themselves in the big picture, not having the full perspective frustrated me.

So, I continuously sought justification in the total picture. In athletics and business, I strove to be a part of something bigger than myself and part of something that would endure after my departure from this life. I admired those that accomplished these things and wondered â??why not me?â??. So as early as my late teenage years, I was fascinated by the idea of a family company. Then, towards that end, in my education and early career I begin to make the deliberate effort to hone my abilities through education, then experience, in order to someday realize this fascination. I began to share my thoughts with friends and colleagues so that ultimately, I came to expect this of myself as others expected this of me. I shared with friends that â??if I go into retirement not having started my business, I will just grow old and bitterâ??.

There was a big obstacle to my dream. I had a great career that included a good salary and innovative work that I brought to reality, implemented and presented on a worldwide stage. By 1995, at age 44, I feared that my dream would not be realized as the risk appeared to far outweigh the benefit. Within the next two years however things changed in a way that made easy my decision to make the move. So, in the middle of 1997, at age 46 I resigned my previous position and founded Dos Santos International.

This important move was facilitated by the support of my family â?? particularly my wife and partner in life, Maria, who, after our marriage in 1972 carried us financially by working throughout my college years. We both came from humble beginnings, so like me she appreciated what we had but did not fear the challenge of trying times.

Our family also proved to be my strength in business. Starting Dos Santos International in 1997, in the middle of the internet explosion, my most important support came from an unlikely source, my 17-year-old son, Marcus. Marc had always taken interest in my work, occasionally accompanying me on sales presentations. Marc had become very knowledgeable and articulate in all things related to computers. During his high school years, Marc had developed a small business where, for a small fee he set up local educators and some businesses on the internet.

So, at the DSI founding, Marc downloaded various brochure forms that we turned into DSI brochures and flyers. Marc also created [the first DSI website](#). So it is with pride that I am happy to truly share the DSI founding with my son, Marcus J. dos Santos. In 1998, Marc began his university education at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and after four years there followed by two years at a high-tech research company in Boston, he joined me at Dos Santos International. We formed our partnership and incorporated the Company formally in 2007.

Continuing the theme of a family business, Dos Santos International added another family member in 2007 when (my daughter) Amy Duncan became our marketing manager after her previous career in radio broadcasting.

Now, over 25 years since the founding, the Dos Santos family of companies remain humble, with a big global footprint thanks to the professional experts that make up our company and indeed have become part of the family. Though successful on a world stage the Dos Santos potential is far from realized making the future as exciting today as at the founding.

â?? Joseph A. Dos Santos
<https://jadossantos.com/>

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