

Karen King

Director of IT Engineering Applications Management

Yazaki North America, Inc.

Karen King's 20 years at Yazaki North America, Inc., a global leader in vehicle power, data, and display solutions, has provided her with a well-rounded view of the automotive industry. Karen is currently responsible for global engineering systems that meet the demands of designing and manufacturing products for today's feature-rich vehicles.

Karen joined Yazaki in 1999 as IT manager, where she gained a solid understanding of the enterprise systems and end-to-end data flow from OEMs to manufacturing. This experience provided a well-rounded view of all business functions and has opened many doors for her successful career.

In 2004, Karen advanced to Sr. Manager of Commodity Purchasing where she set strategy and negotiated agreements for components and raw materials. Her success in leadership within Purchasing positioned her to take on the next challenge at an enterprise level. For the next 5 years, she worked on a special assignment to transform the company's key business processes and deploy a major ERP system throughout North America. As Yazaki evolved toward integrated process management, a more transparent and effective governance was necessary. Karen worked to establish a Center of Excellence (CoE) organization to set corporate level objectives, project priorities, and best practices, which is still in place today.

In 2012, Karen had an opportunity to move into Engineering. As Sr. Manager of Engineering Services, she formed a Data Management Organization to centralize part registration and technical document management. This led to expanded responsibilities over other service areas, including 3D printing/additive manufacturing, engineering training, and engineering software support.

From 2015 to present, Karen's focus has been on leading the development and deployment of Yazaki's next-generation engineering systems that are providing a data-centric integration to every aspect of the wire harness design process. She re-joined IT in 2018 as Director of Engineering Applications where she leads a high-performance team located across the world, delivering advanced technologies and customized solutions.

Prior to joining Yazaki, Karen was the Director of Alumni at Madonna University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and a Master of Science degree in Business Administration Leadership Studies. She has been a part of Inforum for the past 15 years.

