

Re: outsourcing/consultancy experiences anyone?

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On Fri, 23 Jun 2006 09:40:44 +0200, Deefoo wrote:

"mc" <look@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:URzmg.72674\\$qd2.22885@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:URzmg.72674$qd2.22885@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

The biggest thing to remember about consulting is that you cannot get 8 billable hours a day (if you're honest). You will be able to bill about half of that. A remarkable amount of your time is taken up maintaining

your

own tools, making contacts, keeping records, etc., rather than doing billable work.

Thanks for the answers, but I am afraid some of you are misunderstanding the question. Here in Europe (at least) there are plenty of companies (like the one I cited) that hire all kinds of engineers. They are paid by this company and rented to other companies as "consultants" for several months where they do their thing (hardware/software/management/etc). Very common in software engineering. It is like a specialised temp agency except that once they hire you, you become their employee and they pay you, project or not. So if you're lucky you do many interesting projects in many different companies, but if you are less lucky you sit all day in some office sipping coffee. I've been approached by several of these companies (as I said, they are plenty) but I have never met an electronics engineer that works for such a company and I would like to hear some stories if possible before going any further.

I've done "engineering-grade" work as an independent contractor, but it was by word-of-mouth referrals. I'd think that doing the same thing through an agency wouldn't be much different, albeit in each case I only got paid for actual work (which there happened to be 40 hours' worth of each week, but that's not the point). I've also worked for temp agencies doing file-clerk-grade work, and still only got paid for actual work, which might or might not be sporadic.

I'd say jump in and give it a shot – you can always say "no" to any given

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assignment, and you can change your mind any time – you're not marrying the agency! ;-)

Good Luck!

Rich

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