# Dana Maher

541-515-8984 | dana.maher@gmail.com
Bellingham, WA

Technical Executive and Founder with 15+ years specializing in building advanced autonomy and sensorization platforms, regulatory compliance systems, and AI / machine learning systems. Proven success in concurrently leading 8-10 person principal engineering teams and companion delivery / professional services teams, driving enterprise-level strategy, and delivering complex hardware / software systems in regulated environments.

**Highlights**

- Technical Cofounder of Skyward IO, successful through Seed B and then sold to Verizon. Focus robotics/IoT, geospatial, computational geometry, machine learning.
- Lead architect and engineering manager of first Low Altitude Authorization & Notification Capability (LAANC) accepted through FAA validation.
- Lead architect and engineering manager for an agentic system supporting private wireless network (PWN) sales, installation, support, and upgrade.
- Architected and delivered an autonomous part replenishment system for Toyota R&D.
- Designed and executed field tests of high bandwidth robotics and IoT hardware on the early production 5G network.
- Marquee engagements; Toyota, Disney, Caterpillar, LA Times.

**Skills**

- **Robotics & IoT:** Advanced autonomy, autonomous space mapping, fleet-level task fulfillment, and payload integration. Extensive hands-on experience with Boston Dynamics, Ghost Robotics, Knapp AG, K Hartwell, MiR, etc.
- **Software & Infrastructure:** Data ingestion, staging, and normalization for AI/ML. Proficient in Java, C++, Go, and Python. K8S, Embedded Linux, RTOS, Edge Virtualization, Local Containerization. Automated Build Pipelines (Bazel, Gradle), IoT Device Provisioning, Cross-Platform Build Systems.
- **Network & RF**: Private Wireless Networks (PWN), LoRaWAN & IoT protocols, RF design, integration, testing, & troubleshooting.
- **Process:** Sales support, work estimation, stakeholder management, professional services delivery, and bridging agile/waterfall for complex R&D.

**Experience**

- **Owner, Wolf Tree Systems, various contracts (Nov 2025 - present)**
    - Assess technology and end-user compliance (ITAR, EAR-99) for import/export of drone Ground Control Station (GCS) software, minimizing regulatory and legal risk.

    - Drive GCS product auditability and security by migrating complex C++ and Java repositories to Bazel build infrastructure.
    - Significantly reduce acceptance testing and RMA analysis time by developing fully automated testing of FLIR cameras and other sensors/hardware via custom software and physical test environments.
- **Director of Engineering, Verizon (March 2022 - Jan 2026)**
    - Managed agentic and quantitative AI systems for cellular network planning, maintenance, and upgrade.
    - Oversaw complex robotics deployments leveraging private wireless networks and edge compute.
    - Provided customer and executive facing leadership, including technical sales, financial analysis, and strategy.
    - Managed 8-10 principal level FTE's and additional SoW contractors, responsible for $5-6 million per year in combined capex/opex.
- **Technical Cofounder & Principal Architect, Skyward (Dec 2011 - March 2022)**
    - Key contributor to a successful acquisition, driven by growth in large enterprise clients.
    - Architected and led engineering on geospatial and LAANC stacks supporting commercial drone operations.
    - Ensured consistent delivery of engineering objectives on limited time and budget, successfully bringing prototypes to MVP.
    - Grew the initial engineering team from myself to 10+ roles.
- **Native Mobile & IoT Staff Engineer, University of Oregon (Aug 2008 - Dec 2011)**
    - Developed applications and processes for local, state, and federal emergency management.
    - Led engineering for campus GIS applications, integrating facility IoT with the official campus app.
- **Energy Efficiency Program Officer, State of Kansas (July 2006 - July 2008)**
    - As liaison between public sector clients and private sector building energy efficiency providers, audited installation, projections, and actual performance.
    - Each contract was self-funded through utility savings, our office was self-funded through a small per-project fee.

**Education**

- **MS Environmental Science, Public Planning, GIS - University of Oregon - 2011**
- **BS Physics - University of Kansas - 2006**