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David Cushing was a thin-film consultant who had more than 40 years experience in the optical coating field. At the time of his death in 2009, he was programming and running a 48-inch box coater in the University of Arizona and pursuing independent studies of advanced spectral-design techniques. He authored papers on a variety of filter types and held 7 US patents and a number of world patents, mostly related to WDM filter designs.

Former employment included 3 years as Director of Coating R&D at 3M Precision Optics and 10 years at JDS Uniphase Ottawa. He was technical director of OCA (MicroCoatings Inc) from 1971 to 1990. Before that he held various positions in Bairdco (Baird Atomic Inc).