**Michael J. Richter**  
Managing Director, Global Head of A&D Investment Banking Group • Lazard  

Mr. Michael Richter is focusing on companies in the defense, commercial aerospace and homeland security sectors. Mr. Richter has managed more than 225 investment banking transactions totaling more than $80 billion in transaction value including mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, IPOs, as well as public and private placements of debt. Previously, he was President of Jefferies Quarterdeck where his group completed more than 100 transactions in the sector. Prior to Jefferies Quarterdeck, he was a Managing Director and Head of CIBC World Markets’ Aerospace & Defense Investment Banking Group, and also served as the Head of their San Francisco office. Mr. Richter holds a Bachelor’s degree from University of California at Berkeley and an MBA from the Stern School of Business at New York University.

**Dr. Brad M. Meslin**  
Senior Managing Director • CSP Associates  

Dr. Brad Meslin heads the firm’s strategic and transaction advisory practices, and manages CSP’s private investment affiliate, CSP Equity Partners. Over the past 25 years, CSP has been engaged in more than 1,000 industry transactions on behalf of approximately 250 private equity investors, strategic buyers and institutional financing sources active in the commercial aviation, defense, intelligence and government technology services sectors. Dr. Meslin was also a co-founder and Director of Spacehab, Inc. which developed the first privately-financed human spaceflight habitat and flew 22 missions aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle fleet, and served as acting Chief Executive Officer of Sentient Jet, Inc., the largest provider of business aviation charter services. Dr. Meslin is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, ORock Technologies and EconoFact, and is a member of the Board of Overseers of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Dr. Meslin holds MALD and PhD degrees from the Fletcher School and a Bachelor’s degree from York University in Toronto, Canada.

**Thomas “Tom” Gentile**  
President & Chief Executive Officer • Spirit AeroSystems  

Mr. Tom Gentile was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Spirit AeroSystems in August 2016 after joining the company in April 2016 as Chief Operating Officer. Prior to Spirit, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of GE Capital, overseeing global operations, IT and capital planning. Before this role, he was President and CEO of GE Healthcare Systems, a $14 billion diagnostic imaging business, and has also served as President and CEO of GE Aviation Services, a $7 billion global enterprise providing maintenance, repair and overhaul, as well as spare parts to GE Aviation’s global fleet of jet engines for commercial airlines. Mr. Gentile began his career at GE in 1998, holding a succession of leadership roles across GE Capital in the U.S., France and Australia, and has held numerous other leadership and strategy roles with McKinsey and Company, U.S. broadcaster CBS and General Motors. In addition, he was previously Chairman and continues to serve on the board of InSightec, a global leader in non-invasive image guided therapy. An active community member, he serves on the executive committee of the Aerospace Industries Association and the governing board of the Greater Wichita Partnership. Mr. Gentile earned his Bachelor’s degree in Economics magna cum laude and an MBA from Harvard University, and studied International Relations at the London School of Economics.
Warren G. Lichtenstein  
Founder & Executive Chairman • Steel Partners Holdings  
Mr. Warren Lichtenstein is the founder and executive chairman of Steel Partners Holdings L.P., a global diversified holding company which he founded in 1990 after beginning his career as an analyst at Parapartners, L.P. and then serving as an acquisition analyst at Ballantrae Partners, L.P. Mr. Lichtenstein developed “The Steel Way” business system which was born out of management and efficiency enhancements such as Six-Sigma and LEAN. This approach brings a singular set of tools to create operational excellence and cost savings which drive improvements to earnings. Mr. Lichtenstein is also executive chairman of Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc., a company delivering solutions that create value for its customers in the aerospace and defense markets. Mr. Lichtenstein studied at Tulane University and the University of Pennsylvania where he received a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

Jon Nemo  
Senior Partner • AE Industrial Partners  
Mr. Jon Nemo joined AE Industrial Partners in 2016 and focuses on the origination, execution and monitoring of portfolio investments. Before joining AE Industrial Partners, he was a Managing Director and Head of the Aerospace, Defense & Government Services Group at Harris Williams & Co., a leader in middle-market mergers and acquisitions advisory. Prior to Harris Williams, he was a Managing Director in the Aerospace & Defense Investment Banking Group at Jefferies & Company and at CIBC World Markets as a Managing Director in the Industrial Growth & Services Investment Banking Group. Over the past 25 years, he has been dedicated to aerospace and defense and has completed more than 75 M&A and capital markets transactions valued at over $10 billion. His deep knowledge of the aerospace supply chain, extensive transaction experience and breadth of industry relationships, provide AE Industrial Partners with a strong set of deal sourcing and transaction execution capabilities while also providing unique strategic value creation perspectives throughout their portfolio investments. Mr. Nemo received a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan.

Kenneth Herbert  
Managing Director • Canaccord Genuity  
Mr. Kenneth Herbert is a Managing Director and Senior Aerospace & Defense analyst at Canaccord Genuity. As the US Industrial sector research team leader, he is responsible for global A&D research at Canaccord. Prior to Canaccord, he was the senior A&D analyst at Imperial Capital and Wedbush Securities. From 2003-2009, he ran the A&D consulting practice at Frost & Sullivan and was an associate to the No.1-ranked machinery analyst at Salomon Smith Barney from 2000-2003. Mr. Herbert received his MBA from the University of Michigan.
Chris Celtruda  
**CEO • Kellstrom Defense**

Mr. Chris Celtruda has over 25 years of experience managing complex businesses in the aerospace, defense and industrial markets and is currently the Chief Executive Officer for Kellstrom Holding Corporation, a private equity backed portfolio of businesses focused on the global defense aftermarket. Mr. Celtruda has been the architect of the business strategy and completed six add-on deals to grow the sales and profitability of the asset. Recently, he was engaged as Managing Principal at Destiny Equity Partners providing operating and transactional advisory services for public and private equity backed projects. Previously, he served as President and Corporate Officer for the $1.2 billion global Gardner Denver Industrial Products business unit and has also served as the Group Executive and Corporate Officer who led the formation of the global CIRCOR Aerospace division of CIRCOR International. Earlier in his career, he spent more than 12 years in a variety of operating, business development and growth roles with Honeywell International and the former AlliedSignal. Mr. Celtruda holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maine and an MBA from Arizona State University, with studies in International Management at Ecole Supérieure de Commerce in Toulouse, France.

Colin Cohen  
**Chief Financial Officer • Novaria Group**

Mr. Colin Cohen has been in the aerospace aftermarket for over 30 years. His career has spanned nearly every element including operations, manufacturing, global distribution, finance, credit, IT, bank, mezzanine and equity underwriting. From 1976 through 1997 he was employed by different parts of Citigroup/Citibank in several countries and was the regional head of Structured Finance specializing in non-investment grade aerospace in 1997. He was appointed to the Board of The Fairchild Corporation in 1997 and became its SVP, CFO and Director of Business Development. In 2002 he was appointed SVP and CFO of Aviall Inc. and remained in this office through the acquisition by The Boeing Company in 2006. In 2013 he started his own consulting firm to help companies trying to manage both ends of their supply chains through multiple levels of sub contracted manufacturing and services. This resulted in him joining Novaria Group as its EVP & CFO in 2017.

Robert Spingarn  
**Managing Director, Global Head - Aerospace & Defense Equity Research • Credit Suisse**

Mr. Robert Spingarn covers 26 North American aerospace and defense companies and oversees global A&D research activities for the firm. Throughout his 24-year career, his work has been recognized in all of the major rankings, including Institutional Investor, the Wall Street Journal, Starmine and TipRanks. His calling card has been stock picking, and in 2008 he was named Wall Street’s top analyst (across all sectors) by Forbes. Mr. Spingarn joined Credit Suisse in 2005 following ten years at Citigroup and Wachovia Securities. Mr. Spingarn holds Bachelor and MBA degrees from Columbia University and a Master’s degree in Transportation Management from Northwestern University.
John M. Pollack  
Partner, Gibson • Dunn & Crutcher  
Mr. John M. Pollack is a member of the Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity, Aerospace and Related Technologies and National Security Practice Groups where he focuses on public and private mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and tender offers, and his clients include private investment funds, publicly-traded companies and privately-held companies. Mr. Pollack has extensive experience working on complex M&A transactions in a wide range of industries, with a particular focus in the aerospace, defense and government contracts. Mr. Pollack graduated magna cum laude from The George Washington University and The George Washington University Law School, the latter bestowing upon him High Honors, Order of the Coif and an award for Highest Overall Proficiency in Securities Law.

Judith Alison Lee  
Partner, Gibson • Dunn & Crutcher  
Ms. Judith Alison Lee is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office and Co-Chair of the firm’s International Trade Practice Group. Ms. Lee practices in the areas of international trade regulation, including USA Patriot Act compliance, economic sanctions and embargoes, export controls, and national security reviews (“CFIUS”). Additionally, she also advises on issues relating to virtual and digital currencies, blockchain technologies and distributed cryptoledgers. Ms. Alison has won individual awards for Blockchain Technology Sector Lawyer of the Year in Washington, DC in 2018 and 2019 from Corporate USA Today, Legal 100, and Global 100. Currently, she is a member of Law360’s International Trade Editorial Advisory Board. Ms. Lee served as a Chair of the International Sales Subcommittee on Export Controls, Sanctions and Anti-Corruption of the International Bar Association and currently serves as an officer of the IBA’s International Sales Committee. In 1987, she received her law degree from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary and her bachelor of arts in 1984 from Mount Holyoke College, where she studied Chinese and politics.

Stephen Henry  
Managing Director, A&D Investment Banking Group • Lazard  
Mr. Stephen Henry has over 18 years of investment banking experience, focused on the commercial aerospace, defense and homeland security sectors, and has completed more than 100 M&A and capital markets transactions, including BBA Aviation’s $1.4 billion sale of Ontic to CVC Capital Partners, Exotic Metals’ $1.7 billion sale to Parker Hannifin, CPP on its recapitalization with Warburg Pincus and Berkshire Partners, Valence Surface Technologies sale to ATL Partners and British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, Selmet’s sale to Consolidated Precision Products, ASCO Industries’ $650 million sale to Spirit AeroSystems, Extant Aerospace’s $525 million sale to Transdigm, LMI Aerospace’s $432 million sale to Sonaca, TeleCommunication Systems $431 million sale to Comtech, J.F. Lehman’s $306 million acquisition of API Technologies, Dover’s $500 million sale of Sargent Aerospace to RBC Bearings, and Aergen on its $200 million equity capital raise. Previously, he was a Vice President at Jefferies Quarterdeck, the Aerospace & Defense Group of Jefferies & Company, Inc. Prior to Jefferies Quarterdeck, he was with CIBC World Markets’ Aerospace & Defense Investment Banking Group.
Peter Nicholas Lengyel  
President & CEO • Safran USA

Mr. Peter Lengyel is responsible for the execution of Safran’s strategic vision among the 30 companies and joint ventures operating in the United States. Previously, he was the Vice President for Business Development for Safran USA, and coordinated Group approaches across Safran’s aerospace, defense and security markets in the U.S. Prior to joining Safran, he was a career naval officer and last served as the naval attaché for defense security cooperation at the American Embassy in Paris, France. As the Director of Naval Affairs, he served as a liaison between government, defense and private sector leaders to increase interoperability of U.S. and French defense and national security systems. Mr. Lengyel is a graduate of the US Naval Academy and the Naval War College, where he earned a Master’s degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Peter C. George  
CEO • Consolidated Aerospace Manufacturing (CAM)

Mr. Peter George has over 30 years of experience in diverse aspects of Industrial and Aerospace business and demonstrated proficiency in driving revenue and profitability growth through strategic and operational planning, leading implementation of large scale changes/investments, financial management, strategic marketing management, technology development, Lean/Quality improvement leadership and manufacturing operations management. Previously, he served as Group Chief Executive Officer at Avcorp Industries; President and Chief Executive Officer at Aertis Group, and Chief Operating Officer at Primus International. Mr. George holds an MBA degree from INSEAD.

Tracy Glende  
Chief Executive Officer • Valence Surface Technologies

Mr. Tracy Glende grew up in the greater Houston, Texas area achieving his Bachelor’s of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Lloyd B. Cherry School of Engineering at Lamar University and his Master’s in Business Administration from the Carey Business School at Arizona State University. Mr. Glende’s early career spanned multiple business units at Honeywell in the Industrial and Aerospace markets. Over his career he has held positions in marketing, sales, program management, operations and six sigma where he achieved a Black Belt and Lean Expert certification. Prior to his current role as Chief Executive Officer of Valence Surface Technologies, he held roles as the Vice President Customer Service at Honeywell Aerospace, President and Chief Operating Officer at Applied Surface Technologies, President of the Aerospace, Defense and Energy business at Bodycote Plc and the Chief Executive Officer of Veritas Steel.
Moderator & Speaker Biographies

Rowan G.P. Taylor
Managing Partner • Liberty Hall Capital Partners

Mr. Rowan G.P. Taylor is the founding and Managing Partner of Liberty Hall Capital Partners, a private equity firm focused exclusively on investments in businesses serving the global aerospace and defense industry, whose current portfolio companies include Accurus Aerospace, Aircraft Performance Group, AIM Aerospace, Bromford Industries, Dunlop Aircraft Tyres, and Onboard Systems International. Since 2005, he has led the investment of over $2 billion in equity capital in twelve platforms and twelve add-on acquisitions serving the aerospace and defense industry. Prior to founding Liberty Hall in July 2011, he was a Partner of Oak Hill Capital Management, a private equity firm with more than $8 billion under management. Before joining Oak Hill, he was a Principal of The Clipper Group and its successor, Monitor Clipper Partners, both private equity firms associated with CS First Boston, which he joined in 1991. Mr. Taylor began his career as a Financial Analyst in the Merchant Banking group of CS First Boston in 1989. His B.A. in Economics, summa cum laude, was earned from Washington and Lee University.

Joseph C. Anselmo
Editor-in-Chief, Aviation Week & Space Technology • Aviation Week Network

Mr. Joseph C. Anselmo became Editor-in-Chief of Aviation Week & Space Technology in 2013, leading a team of more than two dozen aerospace journalists in the U.S., Europe and Asia-Pacific. Mr. Anselmo has 28 years of experience as a Washington, D.C. based editor and reporter, covering a wide array of business, political, military, space and technology issues at Aviation Week, Congressional Quarterly and the Washington Post Co. Under his leadership, Aviation Week has won numerous accolades for its in-depth reporting and deep dives into aerospace technology, including eight Jesse H. Neal Journalism Awards and numerous Aerospace Media Awards. In 2015, he helped spearhead a digital initiative that provides subscribers with fresh content every day via mobile phones, tablets or desktop computers. To mark Aviation Week’s 100th anniversary in 2016, the publication’s entire archive — more than 440,000 pages of covers, articles and advertisements — was digitized into a searchable online archive. During his reporting career, he has won three Aerospace Journalist of the Year awards. A graduate of Ohio University, he was elected three times to the National Press Club’s Board of Governors, including one term as board chairman.

Sean Broderick
Senior Transport Editor • Aviation Week Network

Mr. Sean Broderick’s aviation career began in 1991 with Airbus in Toulouse, France. His industry experience includes four years with an aviation consultancy, 12 years with a global airport association. Also, he has spent more than 20 years in full- and part-time roles with Aviation Week, covering airline safety, MRO, and operations. Mr. Broderick and Aviation Week colleague John Croft shared the 2015 Flight Safety International Cecil A. Brownlow Publication Award recognizing “significant contributions by journalists to aviation safety awareness.” Based outside Washington, D.C., he graduated from James Madison University with a B.S. in Communications and earned an M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communications from West Virginia University.
**Joanna Speed**  
Managing Director, A&D and SpeedNews Conferences • Aviation Week Network

In 1979, Gilbert Speed, one of the aviation industry’s respected entrepreneurs, launched SpeedNews, along with his wife Ann Speed, which quickly became the aviation industry’s most innovative newsletter. Under the tutelage of her father Gil, Joanna Speed began her informal education in commercial aviation at SpeedNews and studied business in the Pepperdine University graduate program. Ms. Speed then took on an executive management role with greater responsibility within the company, streamlined the company to increase revenue and reduce costs, led the effort toward online distribution and created new marketing programs for large corporate subscribers. When SpeedNews Conferences emerged as the nation’s most influential forecasting and intelligence forums, Ms. Speed refined and expanded marketing strategies for the Aviation Suppliers Conferences. As Managing Director, she introduced four successful forecasting and intelligence forums for the Aerospace & Defense Industry. In 2006, SpeedNews was purchased by Penton and following Penton’s acquisition of Aviation Week in 2013, Ms. Speed was promoted to Managing Director, Aerospace & Defense Events for the Aviation Week Network, with an expanded portfolio and launched DefenseChain, featuring Program Excellence and Banquet, A&D Mergers & Acquisitions Conference, and Executive Roundtables. Penton was acquired by Informa in 2016.

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**Michael Bruno**  
Senior Business Editor & Content Manager • Aviation Week Network

Based in Washington, Mr. Michael Bruno is Aviation Week’s Senior Business Editor and he covers aviation, aerospace and defense businesses, their supply chains and related issues. Since joining Aviation Week in 2005, he also has covered U.S. federal budgets, regulatory issues and congressional affairs. Besides reporting, he regularly hosts or helps organize Aviation Week’s conferences and events. For six years through 2012, he was managing editor of a unique team of defense and space reporters and freelancers that garnered three Jesse H. Neal business journalism awards, called “the Pulitzer Prize of business media.” Mr. Bruno further has received two Neals and has been a finalist for other awards including the annual media awards at the Paris and Farnborough airshows and is also a founding author of Aviation Week & Space Technology’s Going Concerns business column. Before Aviation Week, he was a staff writer for the Washington Post and Bloomberg BNA. Mr. Bruno has a Master’s in Print Journalism from Syracuse University and a Bachelor’s from Vanderbilt University.