Richard Aboulafia: VP, Analysis • Teal Group

Mr. Richard Aboulafia manages consulting projects in the commercial and military aircraft field and analyzes broader defense and aerospace trends and has advised numerous aerospace companies, including most prime and many second- and third-tier contractors in the US, Europe and Asia and also advises numerous financial institutions on aerospace market conditions. Mr. Aboulafia writes and edits Teal Group's World Military and Civil Aircraft Briefing, a forecasting tool covering over 135 aircraft programs and markets. In 2012 through 2015, he served on the National Aeronautic Association Collier Trophy Selection Committee. Mr. Aboulafia presents a yearly lecture to the National Defense University/Industrial College of the Armed Forces and has served as an expert witness in aerospace markets. Before he joined Teal Group in 1990, he analyzed the jet engine market at Jane's Information Group, served as an aerospace industry consultant for an international trade advisory company and supported research projects at the Brookings Institution. Mr. Aboulafia has a Master's degree in War Studies from King's College, University of London and a Bachelor's degree from George Washington University.

Dr. Ronald J. Epstein: Managing Director, A&D Global Research • BofA - Merrill Lynch

Dr. Ronald J. Epstein joined Merrill Lynch in 2001 as an industry analyst in Fundamental Equity Research covering the U.S. Aerospace and Defense Sector. Currently, he is a Managing Director at the firm and is the Senior Aerospace and Defense Equity Analyst for the Americas, and actively covers companies in the U.S., Canada and Brazil. In 2015 he made Institutional Investor's All America Research Team and was ranked as the number one analyst covering the U.S. Aerospace and Defense Sector. Mr. Epstein has been ranked by Institutional Investor among the top three analysts covering the sector for the last seven consecutive years. In 2008, he was identified by Institutional Investor as a “Best Up-and-Comer”. For eight years, he has placed among the top three analyst teams covering Latin American Aerospace and Transportation. Prior to Merrill Lynch, he was a research scientist working in the Applied Aerodynamics Technology Group at the Boeing Phantom Works in St. Louis, MO. During that time, he was also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. Mr. Epstein completed his MBA with honors from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and also holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University and a BA with highest honors from Skidmore College.

Constance Hunter: Chief Economist • KPMG

Ms. Constance Hunter focuses on how economic factors impact asset prices and business performance worldwide. In her role at KPMG, she works closely with the firm’s leadership and clients to identify inflection points, risks and opportunities that arise in the constantly evolving economic landscape. Ms. Hunter is known for correctly calling economic indicators that presage market turning points such as the Russian currency devaluation in 1998, the Dotcom bubble in 2001, the real estate and credit crisis in 2007-08, the recovery of the housing market and concurrent low bond yields in 2012 and the continued low bond yields through 2016. Prior to joining KPMG, she served as Deputy Chief Investment Officer at AXA Investment Managers where she helped manage over $500 billion in fixed income assets. Ms. Hunter graduated with a BA in Economics and Sociology from New York University and a Master's degree in International Affairs with a concentration on international economics from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Kenneth Herbert: Managing Director • Canaccord Genuity

Mr. Kenneth Herbert is a Managing Director and Senior Aerospace & Defense analyst at Canaccord Genuity. His focus is on the commercial aerospace sector, and he publishes the highly regarded quarterly Global Commercial Aerospace MRO Survey. Prior to Canaccord, he was the senior A&D analyst at Imperial Capital and Wedbush Securities. In 2010, he was voted Best on the Street for stock picking in the annual Wall Street Journal survey. 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.
**Speaker Biographies**

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**Simon F. Pickup: Director, Marketing Operations • Airbus Americas**

Mr. Simon Pickup is Director, Marketing Operations at Airbus Americas. When he joined Airbus in 1988, he spent the first part of his career as a Toulouse-based Customer Marketing Manager, working primarily on sales and marketing campaigns in the Indian subcontinent and South East Asia. In 1995, he transferred to the U.S. and played several roles. In his current function, he liaises with Airbus’ Toulouse headquarters on market strategy, product developments, research and forecasting. In addition to his internal functions, he has also represented Airbus at a variety of external finance, raw materials, transportation, supplier, forecasting and valuation conferences in both the U.S. and Canada. Mr. Pickup holds a Bachelor's degree from Leeds University and a Master's degree in Air Transport Management from Cranfield University.

**Jim Haas: Director, Product Marketing • Boeing Commercial Airplanes**

Mr. Jim Haas is Director, Product Marketing for Boeing Commercial Airplanes and leads the team that presents the value of Boeing’s products to airlines, financiers, media and other key stakeholders. This team is also responsible for bringing customer input on product development studies back to Boeing’s design teams. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Director of 747/767/787 Product Marketing where he led marketing and analysis efforts for those models. In 1997, he joined the Product Marketing department as Regional Director - Product Marketing, covering all Boeing models in support of sales campaigns. Prior to that assignment, he was responsible for airplane performance support for all Boeing aircraft to the Sales, Marketing and Contracts organizations for sales campaigns in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Haas began his career at Boeing in 1979 as a configuration design engineer in the 757 aerodynamics organization. Since that time, he has held a variety of assignments in aircraft design and performance in the 757 and 777 programs, and in support of product development activities. Mr. Haas holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Aeronautical and Astronautical engineering from Purdue University.

**Zuzana Hrnkova: VP, Marketing • ATR (Avions de Transport Regional)**

Ms. Zuzana Hrnkova leads the team responsible for Market Strategy, Airline Marketing and Product Development at ATR. Starting her career as a trainee with Airbus and then as Performance Engineer in the Product Marketing group, she moved to the A330/A340 product marketing group where she supported the marketing and entry in service of the A340-500 and A340-600. From 2003 to 2007, she was Payload Accommodation Manager, responsible for explaining Airbus cabin to customers and providing the cabin engineering team with customer and market requirements. Her development continued as Aircraft Interiors Marketing Director, responsible for supporting sales campaigns and supporting cabin interiors developments and working on market strategy, and her last assignment at Airbus was Head of Aircraft Interiors Marketing. Ms. Hrnkova holds degrees from the Air Transport University of Zilina, Slovakia and the French School of Civil Aviation (ÉNAC) in Toulouse.

**Cesar Souto Pereira: Head of Consulting, Commercial Aviation • Embraer**

Mr. Cesar Souto Pereira is responsible for providing specialist services to shape airlines planning and strategies, and has been with Embraer for 14 years. Starting as a Product Development Engineer, he worked in the continued airworthiness of the E-Jets program. Later, he moved to Market Intelligence where he first worked in Airline Studies. As Director of Sales Engineering, he led the worldwide marketing and sales support activities for all commercial aviation products and more recently has been appointed as Head of Embraer Consulting, focused on helping airlines to improve their results and strategies. Mr. Pereira holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, a Master's degree in Aeronautics, and an MBA in Enterprise Management.
### Gordon Preston: VP, Marketing • Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. America

Mr. Gordon Preston started his aviation career in Flight Test Engineering, on the de Havilland Dash 8 initial certification. With successive roles in Engineering, Operations Analysis, Airline Analysis, Marketing, Industry Strategy as well as Sales, he has worked on industry leading Regional Aircraft Programs, and with OEM and airline leaders for over 30 years. Regional airlines fly more than 45% of all US daily departures. Regional aircraft preserve access to smaller communities and provide valuable high frequency services to business markets. The MRJ is bringing the next generation of aircraft technologies to improve those key services, and to reduce operating costs and environmental impact. Mr. Preston is a graduate of Ryerson University’s Aerospace Engineering program.

### Ross Mitchell: VP, Commercial Operations • Bombardier Commercial Aircraft

Mr. Ross Mitchell is Vice President, Commercial Operations for Bombardier Commercial Aircraft, a role which encompasses Strategy, Deal Management and Industry Affairs for Commercial Aircraft. In 1998, he joined Bombardier in the Contracts Department of Regional Aircraft. In 2000, he transferred to Sales in the International region, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In 2010, he moved to Bombardier Business Aircraft taking a role in the European Sales team and working in the Strategic Accounts Group. In 2014, he was tasked with running the European region for Bombardier Commercial Aircraft as Regional Vice President, European Sales. From August 2014 to October 2015, he assumed the role of Vice President, Business Acquisition. Prior to joining Bombardier, he practiced law at McMillan Binch. Mr. Mitchell holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from McMaster University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Toronto.

### Guy Norris: Senior Editor • Aviation Week Network

Mr. Guy Norris was educated at King Williams College, Isle of Man and the University of Liverpool, UK. He started his career in aerospace journalism as a London correspondent for Swiss-based Interavia, before working for Jane’s Information Group and later joined Flight International as Technical Editor and was posted to Los Angeles as US West Coast Editor. In 2007 he joined the staff of Aviation Week & Space Technology as Senior Editor and Los Angeles Bureau Chief. Mr. Norris has published 17 aviation books, and written in the aerospace section of an educational encyclopedia making him the recipient of several journalism awards including the American Aerospace Writers Association and Royal Aeronautical Society’s journalist of the year awards and was also honored with the RAeS’s Decade of Excellence award in 2006, and in 2009 and 2013 he won the Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism Award for best technical content. Mr. Norris won the Aerospace Media Award in 2015 for the best military aviation submission and was the recipient of the Aerospace Industries Association Lauren D. Lyman Award for outstanding achievement in aerospace communications. In 2016 he was elected an honorary Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

### William H. Brown: Marketing Manager, Commercial Engines • CFM International

Mr. William Brown joined GE’s Manufacturing Development Program with assignments in GE Aviation manufacturing, quality and sourcing, worked in GE Services as Repair Programs Manager, leading engine component repair development and GE’s engine overhaul facilities process improvement. In 2000, he was appointed GE Aviation Marketing Operations Manager responsible for market analysis, forecasting and product pricing. Mr. Brown has led Product Marketing GE’s CF6, GE90 and GE9X engines and was marketing general manager for CFM, including the new LEAP engine models powering the Airbus A320neo, Boeing 737 MAX and the COMAC C919 aircraft. Recently, Mr. Brown was named the Marketing Manager for all GE Aviation and CFM International commercial engines.
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Richard Apps: Director • Counterpoint Market Intelligence

In 2004, after a career with GKN and Westland, Mr. Richard Apps joined with George Burton to launch Counterpoint Market Intelligence Ltd., an aerospace market research and strategic planning consultancy. His aerospace career in production management and customer service organizations. Prior to leading the marketing activity, he was the Program Manager for the PW4000 engine family, and then most recently the Regional Director of Customer Service in the Asia Pacific region. Mr. Apps holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University, a Master's degree in Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut.

Stephen (Steve) T. Rimmer: Chief Executive Officer • Altavair AirFinance

Mr. Steve Rimmer has been involved in the commercial aviation industry, including worldwide aircraft and engine trading activities for 35 years. Mr. Rimmer co-founded Altavair LLC in 2003 and is responsible for its overall strategy and management. Prior to co-founding Altavair LLC, he founded XS Aviation Ltd., a commercial aircraft investment management and advisory company in 2000. Before XS, he co-founded Curtis & Company, a boutique aviation lease and finance arranging company, where he remained a principal in charge of its London office from 1991 through 1999. During this same time, he founded Curtis Power Company, an early commercial engine leasing company, which he later sold to General Electric in 2001. At its height, Curtis Power Company managed and leased over 90 engines to airlines around the globe.

Peter Johnston: VP, Marketing • Rolls-Royce

Mr. Peter Johnston joined Rolls-Royce in 1990 as an aircraft performance analyst, after working in aerodynamics and marketing with British Aerospace. Since then, he has worked in various marketing and engineering roles in Rolls-Royce and its subsidiary companies, including BMW Rolls-Royce, where he was heavily involved with the launch of the Boeing 717, and International Aero Engines, where he was responsible for Product Strategy. From 2004, Mr. Johnston took responsibility for Business Development for powerplants on a variety of new aircraft programmes. In 2010, he moved to the Marketing team, and was then appointed Head of Customer Marketing, Airbus Programmes. In this role, he led Marketing on all Trent 700, Trent 500 and Trent 900 opportunities. From 2015, he has led Rolls-Royce’s Marketing on all Airbus programmes as Vice President, Marketing. In addition, he is responsible for Rolls-Royce’s marketing activities with airlines. Mr. Johnston holds a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Paul Finklestein: VP, Product Marketing • Pratt & Whitney

Mr. Paul Finklestein leads the Marketing team for Pratt & Whitney’s Commercial Engines division, and in this role, has marketing responsibility for all Pratt & Whitney products and services worldwide. In 1979, he joined Pratt & Whitney and has held numerous positions in engineering, program management and customer service organizations. Prior to leading the marketing activity, he was the Program Manager for the PW4000 engine family, and then most recently the Regional Director of Customer Service in the Asia Pacific region. Mr. Finklestein holds a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University, a Master’s degree in Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut.
Andrew Gordon: Director, Strategic Marketing & Analysis • Airbus

Mr. Andrew Gordon moved to the Airbus’ headquarters in Toulouse in 2001 and today is the Director of Strategic Marketing and Analysis. As part of this role, he is responsible for facilitating the production of the Airbus Global Market Forecast, which details future demand for all civil aircraft of 50 seats or more. Prior to this appointment, he worked for British Aerospace Airbus as part of the Forecasting & Market Evaluation Team, where he was involved in providing analysis for many of the market and product-related decisions including the A380 project. At the creation of Airbus as a single entity, he moved to Toulouse to work directly for Airbus in the Market Forecasting & Research Group, now part of the Strategy and Cooperation team. His career began with BAE/airbus in 1991, and prior to that he worked for one of United Kingdom’s largest banks. Mr. Gordon has a Master’s degree in Marketing from the University of the West of England.

Dr. Adam M. Pilarski: Senior VP, Consulting • AVITAS

Dr. Adam Pilarski oversees valuation and consulting services at AVITAS and is responsible for producing traffic forecasts, economic forecasts, statistical analyses, strategic planning, and airline industry issues. In 1997, he joined AVITAS after 17 years at Douglas Aircraft Company, where he was Chief Economist and Director of Strategic Planning and was also editor and publisher of the annual Outlook publications. Dr. Pilarski has published more than 180 articles in professional and academic publications. His book, published in 2007 by Ashgate Publishing, is “Why Can’t We Make Money in Aviation?” Dr. Pilarski is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and he also serves on Sage Electronics & Technology board of directors. Dr. Pilarski earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Illinois.

Charles Armitage: Director and Head of European A&D Equity Research • Citibank

Mr. Charles Armitage is a director and head of European Aerospace & Defence Equity Research at Citibank, having been an Aerospace & Defence Analyst for 19 of the last 23 years. Before joining Citi, he has variously been an equity analyst at UBS (2011-16), Merrill Lynch (2000-09) and Lehman Brothers (1995-97), an investor at Putnam (1997-2000) and a strategy consultant at Charles River Associates (2009-11) and OC&C (1993-95). Mr. Armitage is a Rolls-Royce-trained engineer and holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Bristol.

Dr. Kevin Michaels: Managing Director • AeroDynamic Advisory

Dr. Kevin Michaels is Managing Director of AeroDynamic Advisory, a consulting firm focused on the global aerospace and aviation industries. His 30 years of aviation experience includes hundreds of consulting engagements for leading aviation and aerospace companies across the globe. Dr. Michaels is a globally recognized expert in the aerospace manufacturing and MRO sectors, and also has significant expertise in business-to-business marketing, customer satisfaction, M&A advisory, technology assessment, cluster development, and strategic planning. His experience spans all major market segments, including air transport, business & general aviation, and military. Previously, he was a VP with ICF’s Aerospace & MRO consulting practice, was a co-founder and partner with AeroStrategy, until its acquisition by ICF. Prior to that, he was Director - Strategic Development with Rockwell Collins Government Systems, and Principal with The Canaan Group, an aerospace consultancy. Dr. Michaels began his career as a project engineer with aeroengine supplier Williams International. His Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering, an MBA degree, was obtained from the University of Michigan, and MSc and PhD degrees in International Relations from the London School of Economics.
Stephen Burnside: Director, Market Forecasting - Airlines • Rolls-Royce

Mr. Stephen Burnside is responsible for Rolls-Royce's civil aerospace Market Forecast, having a breadth of experience in market analysis, business development and strategic planning in the rotorcraft and fixed wing sectors. Mr. Burnside has worked for various Aerospace OEMs covering civil, defence and para-public markets. His Bachelor's degree (Hons) in Economics and European Politics was obtained from Manchester Metropolitan University and his Corporate Masters in Business Engineering from Finmeccanica Group.

Wendy R. Sowers: Director, Product Forecasting • Boeing Commercial Airplanes

Ms. Wendy Sowers leads Boeing Commercial Airplanes’ analysis of the airline industry. In her current role, she directs the development of Boeing’s annual Current Market Outlook – a 20-year global forecast for air traffic and airplane demand – as well as near and midterm market analyses supporting Boeing Commercial Airplanes’ business and strategic planning. Ms. Sowers has been with BCA for 20 years in a variety of roles including product marketing, competitor analysis and strategy, and supply chain management.

Al Wang: Senior Manager, Forecasting & Market Planning • Pratt & Whitney

Mr. Al Wang currently serves as the head of forecasting and market planning for Pratt & Whitney and International Aero Engines. Previously, he served in strategic planning before heading to marketing as an airline analyst. Prior to joining Pratt & Whitney in 1993, he served as Program Acquisition Manager for the Naval Air Systems Command. Mr. Wang has an undergraduate degree in Aeronautical Engineering and an MBA degree, both from the University of Virginia.

Tom Tran: Manager, Strategic Marketing • GE Aviation

Mr. Tom Tran joined GE in May 2011 in Strategic Marketing as the Commercial Forecasting Lead. Prior to joining GE, he spent 15 years in the Aerospace industry, including eight years at AeroStrategy (now ICF), a boutique strategy consulting firm that specialized in aerospace and aviation. During this time, he was responsible for developing maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) market forecasts and for AeroStrategy’s transaction support activities due to his extensive experience in the business aviation and rotary wing sector, having worked at both Cessna and Bell Helicopter. Mr. Tran received his Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and his MBA from University of Michigan Ross School of Business.
Dr. Brad M. Meslin: Senior Managing Director • CSP Associates

Dr. Brad Meslin is a founder and Senior Managing Director of CSP Associates, where he heads the firm’s strategic and transaction advisory practices, and manages CSP’s private investment affiliate, CSP Equity Partners. For more than 25 years, CSP has been a leading global provider of transaction diligence advisory services to private equity investors, strategic buyers and institutional financing sources active in the commercial aviation, defense, 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 multiple missions aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle fleet and has also served as acting Chief Executive Officer of eBizJets, Inc. (now Sentient Jet, Inc.), the largest provider of business aviation charter services. Dr. Meslin earned graduate degrees from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy.

Simon Finn: Senior VP, Aviation Division • DVB Bank

Mr. Simon Finn is a Senior Vice President at DVB Bank, a business analyst working in the Aviation Research business unit since 2006. The unit is responsible for the bank’s aviation asset and market analysis activities. Prior to his current position, he worked at Airbus, IBA Group Ltd, Virgin Atlantic Airways (UK), and as an independent provider of data/software services to aviation companies. With experience of the aviation market from the perspective of an airline, a consulting company, a manufacturer and now a bank, he has developed a well-rounded view of the aviation industry which is expressed regularly in the form of published articles and/or speaking engagements such as this one.

Mr. Gijsbertus (Bert) van Leeuwen heads DVB’s Aviation Research unit which is responsible for the bank’s aviation market, airline and asset analysis activities and is a regular speaker at airfinance and aviation conferences all over the world with subjects ranging from aircraft values and remarketability to cargo-conversions and aircraft-engine finance. In 1983, he started his career with NIBC Bank as a business consultant and became a co-founder of NIBC’s aircraft finance department. After having spent over 10 years in aviation, offshore energy and intermodal equipment research for several Dutch banks, he joined aircraft operating lessor IEM in 2001 to head up the Market Research & Business Development department. With over 25 years of experience in the aircraft finance and leasing market, he joined DVB Bank in April 2003 and is responsible for the Aviation Research unit. Mr. van Leeuwen holds a degree in Business Economics from Erasmus University Rotterdam and is a member of the Editorial Board of ISTAT’s Jetrader magazine.

Gary Weissel: Managing Officer • Tronos Aviation Consulting

Mr. Gary Weissel’s aviation industry career spans 27 years. Prior to starting Tronos Aviation Consulting, he spent 14 years at ICF International with his last position there as co-Managing Officer of the firm’s Aviation and Aerospace Practice. Mr. Weissel has also held positions in program management, engineering and interiors at B/E Aerospace and Delta Air Lines. Being a regular speaker at industry conferences, he also guest lectures at the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Aerospace Engineering. Mr. Weissel holds a Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and is an FAA licensed pilot.
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### Speaker Biographies

**Cliff Collier: Senior Advisor • ICF**

Mr. Cliff Collier is a seasoned executive in ICF's Operations & Supply Chain (OSC) practice where he helps aerospace companies assess and realize cost and efficiency improvements and also leads operations due diligence projects. Mr. Collier has 30 years of experience in Supply Chain, IT and Human Resources management from Vought Aircraft Industries and Triumph Aerostructures. During this tenure, he honed his supply chain, operations, and implementation skills and is particularly skilled in turnaround and start-up operations. Implementation examples include leading a complete restructuring of company benefit plans including union workforce, rescuing a failed SAP implementation and creating a cross-company corporate procurement organization in a highly decentralized aerospace company. Mr. Collier has managed significant company liabilities such as pension obligations of $1.6B and procurement spend of $2B annually. Mr. Collier has a Masters in Economics and a BA in Economics both from the University of Texas at Arlington.

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**John P. Byrne: VP, Procurement, Aircraft Materials & Structures • Boeing**

Mr. John Byrne serves as Vice President of Procurement, Aircraft Materials and Structures for Boeing Commercial Airplanes' Supplier Management and is responsible for the purchase of raw materials, standards, fabricated parts, assemblies and major structures for all commercial airplane programs. Additional responsibilities include managing Ural Boeing Manufacturing, a Boeing joint venture located in Russia, focused on titanium machining. Mr. Byrne joined Boeing in 1987 as a quality engineer at the company’s Fabrication Division in Auburn, Washington, following five years of work with the United States Department of the Navy. In 2003, he was named the Director of Raw Materials and Purchased Outside Production; two years later Standards were added to his responsibilities and he was named to his current position in June of 2011.

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**Jody Callihan: VP, Business Development, Advanced Technologies Division • GKN Aerospace**

Mr. Jody Callihan’s aerospace career covers nearly 35 years. Prior to his current role in business development, Mr. Callihan served as the General Manager of the GKN Santa Ana facility for over 13 years. His broad experience over his lengthy aerospace career spans numerous management positions in Quality, Operations, General Manager and now divisional business development responsibility. Mr. Callihan holds an MBA from Pepperdine University.

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**Bill Chakos: Director, Procurement, PACE Program • Parker Hannifin**

Mr. Bill Chakos is responsible for the development and implementation of Aerospace Group-wide strategic procurement processes, plans, and strategies that drive year over year deflation and spend reduction. In 2012, he joined Parker as the Supply Chain Director for the Control Systems Division. Prior to joining Parker, he was the Strategic Procurement Director at Honeywell Aerospace, responsible for Machined and Sheet Metal commodities for the Aerospace group. Mr. Chakos also held various roles in his 19 years at The Boeing Company, most recently as the Boeing Charleston 787 Materials Management Operations Director. Mr. Chakos earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from California State University, Long Beach and a Certificate in Project Management from Boston University.
Joanna Speed: Managing Director, A&D and SpeedNews Conferences • SpeedNews

In 1979 Gilbert and Ann Speed launched SpeedNews, the aviation industry’s most innovative newsletter. In 1994 their daughter Joanna Speed joined the company putting to use her degree from Cal Poly State University San Luis Obispo and her acumen for business and marketing. While beginning her informal education in commercial aviation under Publisher Gil Speed, she studied business in the Pepperdine University graduate program. Over the years, Ms. Speed 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 influential forecasting and intelligence forums, she refined and expanded marketing strategies for the Aviation Suppliers Conferences. As Managing Director, she introduced three more forecasting and intelligence forums for the Aerospace & Defense Industry. SpeedNews has been part of Penton’s Aviation Media Group since 2006. Following Penton’s acquisition of Aviation Week in 2013, Ms. Speed was promoted to Managing Director, Aerospace & Defense Events, with an expanded portfolio of Conferences that now includes AerospaceDefenseChain, formerly SpeedNews Annual Aerospace & Defense Suppliers Conference, Aviation Week’s A&D Programs, Defense Technology & Requirements and Executive Roundtables.

John F. Walsh: President • Walsh Aviation

Mr. John F. Walsh founded Walsh Aviation in 1993 as a consulting service that specializes in forecasting for commercial and military aviation markets and identifying new business opportunities in the aerospace industry. In this role, he maintains a focus on the cyclical nature of the industry to provide his clients with an “early warning” or “wake-up call” by identifying major turning points in the marketplace. In his 35-year career, he was formerly Director of Market Research for UNC, Inc., and Director of Market Planning and Corporate Relations for Rohr Corporation and is frequently quoted in such media outlets as the Wall Street Journal, Nightly Business Report, USA Today, World Airline News, and BBC Worldwide News Hour. Mr. Walsh is a member of the Executive Council for Air Transportation Research International Forum (ATRIF) and a past president, and is also a member of the Committee on Aviation Economics and Forecasting for the Transportation Research Board and the aerospace member for the Conference of Business Economists. A graduate of Manhattan College, Columbia University, and UCLA, he holds Master’s degrees in Civil Engineering and Business Administration.