Alex Vlielander: President • Liebherr-Aerospace Saline

Mr. Alex Vlielander joined Liebherr-Aerospace Saline in 2003 and oversaw plant expansions to accommodate growth in 2006, 2012 and 2016. Liebherr-Aerospace Saline provides customer service, technical support and component maintenance for the Americas and assembly/light manufacturing. In 1990, Mr. Vlielander started his aviation career with AAR Corp. in the Netherlands, with subsequent postings in Singapore, United Kingdom, and Garden City New York. Mr. Vlielander holds a Master's degree in History from the University of Leiden, The Netherlands with studies in Air & Space Law and Computer Sciences.

William H. Alderman: President • Alderman & Company

During his 27-year career providing strategic and financial advice in the aerospace and defense industry, Mr. William Alderman has completed more than $1 billion in mergers, acquisitions, and capital raising transactions. Early in his career, he held senior positions in investment management and finance in the aerospace and defense industry at General Electric. In the past, he has served on the following corporate boards: UFC Aerospace, Cox & Co., and Breeze Eastern Corp. Currently, he serves on the board and is the Chairman, of the Compensation Committee of DLH Corp., a services supplier to the United States Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Mr. Alderman is a graduate of the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and Kenyon College.

Rhodri Thomas: Sr. Manager, Supply Chain Strategy & Development • Boeing

Mr. Rhodri Thomas began his aviation career in heavy airframe maintenance and modifications, working mostly on 727 and 757’s at Goodrich (Tramco) in Everett, Washington. After joining Boeing, he contributed to the development of the 777 long range models and then moved to Product Development where he worked on the concept that would become the 787 Dreamliner. Mr. Thomas next moved into business strategy, with specific focus on customer and market requirements, and developed business environment models to simulate and predict swings in demand to assist in production planning and near-term business forecasts. Then he was selected to lead the Advanced Projects and Strategic Analysis group in Product Strategy where he worked on requirements for future airplane families such as 737 MAX. In 2014, he moved to Supplier Management to lead the Supply Chain Strategy and Development organization. Mr. Thomas has a Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from Embry-Riddle University and an MBA from the University of Washington.

Edward Talerico: Director, Industry & Solutions Strategy • Infor

Mr. Edward Talerico, has for the past 20 years, held positions in development and consulting services at Infor working with Infor’s A&D customers before taking his current role as Industry Director for Aerospace, Defense and High-Tech Electronics. Previously, he worked at Bain and Lockheed Martin, implementing MRPII systems and selecting ERP solutions for implementation for more than 10 years where he gained valuable experience in the Aerospace and Defense Industry.
Dr. Mohamed Abuali executes philosophies from Industrial Engineering, a field that exclusively deals with the optimization of complex processes and systems. With mentorship from the Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems (IMS) at the University of Cincinnati, a recognized international leader in predictive analytics and industrial big data, Dr. Abuali redefines increased global competitiveness for FORCAM’s client landscape. With sensitivity and skill, he transforms discrete manufacturing processes through technology and enthusiastically inspires young and senior talent eager to make a difference in global manufacturing. Deep knowledge in productivity improvements of Automotive, Aerospace & Defense, Medical Devices, and Oil & Gas supply chain industries is rooted in more than 15 years of manufacturing technology experience and lean manufacturing principles.

Mr. Todd Benigni is focused on helping companies in the Aerospace and Industrial sectors drive transformational change in all facets of Operations and Supply Chain, enabling profitable growth, innovation, and cost effective execution. Prior to joining PwC, he spent 12 years in the Automotive industry including eight years at Ford Motor Company in Product Design, Manufacturing Engineering, and Production Management roles. Additionally, he spent four years working as a Product Engineering Group Manager and Program Manager for a Tier 1 Automotive supplier, both in the US and Europe. Mr. Benigni holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, a Master's degree in Mechanical/Automotive Engineering from the University of Michigan, and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and a Master’s of Manufacturing Engineering Management from the McCormick School of Engineering at Northwestern University.

Mr. Jeffrey Ahlquist is focused on assisting clients with the innovation, development and commercialization of disruptive products and business models to deliver greater customer and organizational value. With over 25 years of industry experience in the areas of corporate and product strategy, product development and management and marketing, he has built and launched new products for fortune 50 companies, while also building 6 startups in the areas of transportation, telecommunications, industrial goods, and software.

Mr. Hector Aguilera is responsible for Smart Technologies in the Dürr Group for North America where he oversees custom applications for car manufacturers related to Manufacturing Execution Systems. Since joining the company in 2006, he has worked in engineering, project management and sales, assisting end users on their way towards the Industry 4.0 revolution. Mr. Aguilera holds a Bachelor’s degree in electronic and communication engineering from the Universidad Tecnologica de Mexico.
Mr. Tony Vernaci leads the sales teams assigned to attracting domestic and foreign direct investment to Michigan, being a highly qualified executive with a diverse background in business and manufacturing that spans nearly 30 years. Prior to becoming a vice president at MEDC, he was president of Global Advantages. His experience has provided him with a unique opportunity to lead organizations, develop strategic plans and implement projects across multiple industries in several countries. Mr. Vernaci has a proven track record in achieving financial and operational performance by leading and engaging teams across international borders. Prior to Global Advantages, he worked for a year with Doncasters in Burton-on-Trent, UK, as executive vice president of globalization. Previous to joining Doncasters, he spent 20 years with Textron in various roles of increasing responsibilities, up to senior vice president of international. Before joining Textron, he worked for 10 years in the automotive industry and held various management positions for Chrysler and the Tier-one supply base.

Mr. Jason Mikulski is an Operations Leader with Rockwell Automation and is currently the Plant Manager over the Mequon and Middleton Manufacturing Facilities. His manufacturing team consists of 450 employees across 2 facilities that operate in approximately 300,000 square feet of manufacturing space. Since 2006 he has worked in Manufacturing in a variety of different roles and for a variety of different companies. Mr. Mikulski has spent time as a manufacturing team leader, supervisor, area manager, warehouse manager, production manager, production and inventory control manager and most recently plant manager and has leveraged the Connected Enterprise in his plants by integrating technology to provide actionable information in real time, allowing him to maximize production output based on current conditions. Mr. Mikulski holds Bachelor's and MBA degrees from Walsh College in Troy, Michigan.

Mr. Trevor Stansbury has, for the last 14 years, been overseeing the design, development and deployment of multi-enterprise, Web-based solutions that enable OEM customers to proactively extend their influence and control throughout their extended value chains. Clients included Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Cessna Aircraft Company, United Technologies Corporation, John Deere, Westinghouse Electric Company and General Electric. Prior operating executive roles include: Director of International Programs & Risk/Revenue Sharing Programs at Honeywell International and President of a trading company established by McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems. Mr. Stansbury holds a Bachelor's degree with High Honors in International Relations and Economics from Lynchburg College in Virginia and an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona.

Mr. Shawn Thudium is in IBM’s US Industrial Marketplace, consulting with clients on transformation initiatives to enable cognitive manufacturing. Mr. Thudium is an IBM professional hire from the aerospace industry during the evolution to computer aided design and manufacturing where IBM became a market leader. His professional career started as an industrial engineering student intern, where he first experienced the process for controlling NC machines on the shop floor. After joining IBM as an engineering application specialist, he progressed quickly to a role where he led the North America PLM application engineering teams supporting automotive, aerospace, electronics and industrial products clients.
When Mr. Rick Snyder became Michigan’s 48th Governor in 2011, he pledged a common sense approach to governing that focused on working together to find solutions for the state’s toughest problems. Governor Snyder has focused on making government more efficient and effective for Michigan’s citizens. In the past six years, the state has passed six balanced budgets, eliminated a $1.5 billion deficit and reformed burdensome tax and regulatory codes that were stifling business growth and job creation. Raised in a Battle Creek home known for a strong work ethic and service to others, his upbringing has aided in leading the state’s comeback. After graduating from the University of Michigan, and following a successful career at PwC, he joined Gateway as President and COO. Later he returned to Michigan to co-found an Ann Arbor-based venture capital fund. In the past six years, Michigan created nearly 500,000 new private sector jobs. Among his greatest achievements, Governor Snyder built a bipartisan coalition to put Detroit on a path to success. Detroit has emerged bankruptcy poised to be one of the great comeback stories in American history. The Governor’s “Relentless Positive Action” has brought solutions to pressing problems and renewed optimism in Michigan’s future.

The Honorable Rick Snyder: Governor • State of Michigan

Jeff Simek: General Manager, Operations • RCO Aerospace

Mr. Jeff Simek provides passionate leadership, teambuilding, and strategic planning for cost, quality and delivery performance in the Aerospace Industry. With over 20 years of experience, his first 14 years were spent in the automotive industry where began as a Program Manager for Key Plastics and then worked for Plastech where he held the position of Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Manager. Subsequently, he was promoted to Launch Manager (start-up to full production) for green field sites in Alabama and Michigan. Following these positions, he was hired as Plant Manager at RCO Engineering’s plastics injection molding plant. After two years with RCO Engineering, he was transitioned to RCO Aerospace and for the last seven years has been responsible for leading the OEM operations and service for seating configurations used in large cabin business class jets. Mr. Simek graduated from Ferris State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Plastics Engineering & Technology.

Jeff Smith: Executive Director, Fan & Externals Module Center • Pratt & Whitney

Mr. Jeff Smith is focused on developing and increasing capacity for the fan blades value stream. His responsibilities include the design and construction of Pratt & Whitney latest addition to the AutoAir campus to support the assembly of fan blades for the GTF engine. Mr. Smith is also developing the capacity and relationship with IHI in Japan, one of the key partners for the GTF engine and overseeing the machining and manufacturing of fan blade bodies at Pratt & Whitney Manufacturing Singapore joint venture. Mr. Smith brings more than 26 years of experience to this role, most recently as product director, Hot Section Module Center where he was responsible for production of turbine airfoils and military exhaust modules for various engine programs. Mr. Smith holds a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tufts University and an MBA from the University of Connecticut.

George F. Kiefer: VP & GM, Avionics - Computing & Networking • GE Aviation Systems

Mr. George Kiefer joined Lear Siegler in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1985 as a systems engineer where he obtained his master of business administration from Western Michigan University. Lear Siegler was later acquired by Smiths Aerospace and subsequently by General Electric in May 2007. His responsibilities with Lear Siegler and Smiths Aerospace included engineering line management positions through engineering director, programs director of large-scale integration programs, product line business director, vice president of the 787 common core system program, and vice president/general manager of 787 programs. Mr. Kiefer continued in this role after the GE Aviation acquisition of Smiths and assumed the position of VP/GM Avionics North America in 2009 and has been the site leader for the Grand Rapids facility since that time. His current position was assumed in November 2016. Mr. Kiefer attended the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in operations research.
Moderator & Speaker Biographies
SpeedNews 5th Annual Aerospace Manufacturing Conference

### Jeffery D. Smith: Director, A&D Ideas Lab • Dassault Systèmes

Mr. Jeffery Smith is Director, A&D Ideas Lab at Dassault Systèmes. His career spans 35 years, with proven results in all aspects of the product life-cycle in driving disciplined change. Mr. Smith is an inspired leader, energizing both internal and external customers through strategic and critical thinking in adopting and pioneering new business processes and product improvements to enhance affordability. His retirement from Lockheed Martin Corporation was after over 27 years in various positions, including program leadership and management, critical transformational business capabilities, enterprise processes and tools, engineering, manufacturing, testing, and launch support associated with Engineering, IT, Technical Operations, LMC Engineering Process Improvement (EPI), GPS III, Titan IV, Titan II, Commercial Titan, and NASA shuttle programs. Mr. Smith holds a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from Brigham Young University.

### Jason Cox: President • Cox Machine

As President of Cox Machine Inc., Mr. Jason Cox focuses on integrating technology with the manufacturing process. Before coming to Cox, he worked as a design engineer for Cessna Aircraft in Wichita. Mr. Cox currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Exploration Place, a STEM-education institution, and the Board of Directors for the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cox holds Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. At Kansas State University, he worked as a design engineer for the College’s Advance Manufacturing Institute.

### Brian Brown: Director, Robotics & Automation Laboratory • NIAR

As Director of the Robotics and Automation Laboratory at the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) at Wichita State University, Mr. Brian Brown focuses on industry-driven projects that lead to immediate implementation in the production line increasing productivity and product quality. Leveraging a combination of modern industrial and collaborative robotics, he and his staff of full-time engineers and student lab technicians can quickly evaluate manufacturing processes and implement a wide range of effective solutions. Mr. Brown has been at NIAR-WSU since 2002 and holds a Bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Wichita State University.

### Vibha Menawat: Chief Executive Officer • Menawat & Company

Ms. Vibha Menawathas 20 years of program and project management experience in various industries and a successful track record of managing multiple end-to-end projects simultaneously. Ms. Menawat brought together people from various disciplines and geographies to turn around struggling projects. She has worked extensively with business leaders in international settings to lead onshore and offshore teams.
Brandon H. Bodily: Manager, Advanced Design & Manufacturing • Arconic Forgings & Extrusions

Mr. Brandon Bodily is responsible for Arconic Forgings & Extrusions' research and development activities in additive manufacturing, including the Ampliforge™ process, as well as other innovative manufacturing concepts and, at the same time, leads engineering project teams focused on the application of these technologies into customer design solutions. Also, he is active in the implementation of these manufacturing processes into AFE plants. In 2000, he joined Alcoa as an application engineer where he has worked at the Alcoa Technical Center and multiple business units with a focus on material and product development for the aerospace industry. Mr. Bodily holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Utah State University and a Master's degree in electrical engineering, both from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Laura L. Ely: Head of Technology, Aerostructures North America • GKN Aerospace

Ms. Laura Ely is a key player in the development and implementation of GKN Aerospace’s vision for technology R&D and insertion in North America. In 2014, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Additive Manufacturing and Metallics Technology Center in St. Louis, MO and served as the Center Manager until 2016. Since joining GKN in 2010, she has served in a variety of roles including technical project manager for several R&D Friction Stir Welding projects and lead manufacturing engineer for the successful launch of the Boeing 787-9 wing rib package. Her career started as a Metallurgical Process Engineer at Olin Brass supporting the manufacture of copper and brass strip products. Ms. Ely graduated summa cum laude from Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla) earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgical Engineering.

Dr. Peter Sandborn: Director • CALCE

Dr. Peter Sandborn is a Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department CALCE Electronic Products and Systems Center and the Director of the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute at the University of Maryland. The group develops life-cycle cost models and business case support for long field life systems. This work includes: obsolescence forecasting algorithms, strategic design refresh planning, lifetime buy quantity optimization, return on investment models for maintenance planning, and contract engineering. Dr. Sandborn is an Associate Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Electronics Packaging Manufacturing, a member of the Board of Directors of the PHM Society and the International Institute of Obsolescence Management (IIOM) and is also the author of over 200 technical publications and several books on electronic packaging and electronic systems cost analysis. Dr. Sandborn holds a Bachelor's degree in engineering physics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, a Master's degree in electrical science and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, both from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dr. Laurence Vigeant-Langlois: Executive Marketing Leader • GE Additive

Dr. Laurence Vigeant-Langlois is part of the cross-functional team that launched the new GE Additive business in 2016. In her marketing leadership role, she is responsible for positioning GE Additive to become the industrialization partner of choice with offerings including additive manufacturing materials, machines and design consulting, serving customers in aerospace, medical, automotive and other industry verticals. Previously, she worked for GE Aviation as Managing Director, Strategy & Global Marketing where she led a global team supporting GE Aviation’s sale of engines, systems and services across commercial, business and military aviation. Before joining GE, she led commercial, product and engineering teams in aerospace and high-tech industries. Dr. Vigeant-Langlois launched new engineering innovation programs with helicopter manufacturer Sikorsky Aircraft, gained increasing responsibilities in the purchase of over $9B of aircraft and engines for aircraft lessor CIT, and led The Weather Company (now part of IBM) thru its journey to democratize cockpit weather information. Dr. Vigeant-Langlois received a BEng from McGill University, and SM and PhD from MIT.
Scott Sevcik: Head of Aerospace, Defense & Automotive • Stratasys

Mr. Scott Sevcik leads the Aerospace, Defense, and Automotive Solutions Business Unit for Stratasys. In this role, he is responsible for defining and developing the Stratasys 3D printing product offering for high requirements manufacturing industries. Mr. Sevcik’s background spans the aerospace industry, with roles in System Engineering and Integration at Lockheed Martin and Engineering and Program Management at United Technologies Aerospace Systems. Products he has helped develop or deliver are flying on nearly every modern commercial and business aircraft, as well as in orbit. Mr. Sevcik holds a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Iowa State University, a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering and an MBA from San Jose State 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.