Moderator & Speaker Biographies
SpeedNews 7th Annual Aerospace Manufacturing Conference

**Christopher Chung: President & Chief Executive Officer • EDPNC**

Mr. Christopher Chung joined the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) as Chief Executive Officer in 2015, bringing more than 20 years of state-level economic development experience to his role. The EDPNC has helped North Carolina win more than 500 recruitment and expansion projects, resulting in 67,000 announced new jobs and $14 billion in announced new investment across the state. Previously, he held various executive and management responsibilities at the Missouri Partnership and the Ohio Department of Development now known as JobsOhio. Mr. Chung holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Japanese from The Ohio State University and also completed significant coursework towards a Master’s in Public Policy and Management.

**Michimasa Fujino: President & Chief Executive Officer • Honda Aircraft Company**

Michimasa Fujino is the founding President and CEO of Honda Aircraft Company and is responsible for the design, development, certification, sales, production and customer service of the HondaJet and also serves as a Managing Officer of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. Mr. Fujino joined Honda R&D in 1984 and played major roles in the research of four different aircraft. In 1997, he became a vice president within Honda R&D Americas Inc. and was named the project leader for the HondaJet where he invented several patented technologies incorporated on the HondaJet, including the Over-The-Wing Engine Mount (OTWEM), a high speed natural laminar flow (NLF) wing and fuselage nose and a hybrid composite fuselage structure. Mr. Fujino is the recipient of numerous international awards and distinctions including, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Foundation Award for Excellence, the ICAS Zhukovsky Award for Innovation in Aeronautics and the SAE Clarence L. (Kelly) Johnson Aerospace Vehicle Design and Development Award. Mr. Fujino holds Bachelor of Science and Doctorate degrees in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Tokyo.

**Dr. Vivek Saxena: Founder & Managing Director • Advisory Aerospace OSC**

Dr. Vivek Saxena founded the boutique – Advisory Aerospace OSC - in 2017 with a team that offered the experience of operations executives combined with the rigorous analysis of consulting firms. AdvisoryAero is recognized for its expertise in operational transformation and transaction due diligence. Their Affordable 4.0 tools make Industry 4.0 accessible to small & medium sized businesses. Dr. Saxena has held senior positions like President & CEO at Mooney, VP & Aerospace practice leader at ICF Consulting and General Manager & Chief Engineer at Pratt & Whitney. His PhD in Aerospace Engineering and Applied Mathematics was earned at the University of Cambridge.

**Matthew Mejia: Managing Partner • Renaissance Strategic Advisors**

Mr. Matthew Mejia leads the Commercial Aerospace and Financial Sponsor & Due Diligence Services practices at Renaissance Strategic Advisors, a boutique consulting firm focused exclusively on aerospace, defense & government services. Prior to joining Renaissance Strategic Advisors, he held leadership positions with the aerospace & defense practices at Booz & Company and Charles River Associates. His responsibilities include business development, client relations and project management, as well as extensive interaction with industry media including collaborative publications, interviews and speaking engagements. Mr. Mejia also spent eight years as an investment banker at First Equity Development, a boutique investment bank focused on aerospace & defense advisory and merchant banking activities. Mr. Mejia is a graduate of the Jerome Fisher Management & Technology program at the University of Pennsylvania, earning a B.S., Economics from Wharton and a B.A.S., Systems Engineering from the School of Engineering & Applied Science.
Mr. Ron Rabe has held various senior positions since joining the company in June 2015. In addition to Operations, he has held responsibility for Fabrication, Supply Chain, Manufacturing Strategy, Facilities and Tooling and Strategic Sourcing. Previously, he was Eaton Corporation’s vice president of global manufacturing and supply chain, vehicle group. In that role, he had responsibility for global operations of more than 40 sites, supply chain, quality, materials, advanced manufacturing and lean. His career began at the Boeing Company in Wichita, Kansas, where he held a number of positions increasing in responsibility over 14 years, working on commercial programs such 757, 737 Classic and NG, as well as the 767 / 747 programs and composite A6 wing. Mr. Rabe holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Newman University and an MBA from Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Mr. Jason Rance leads a global innovation team and network to develop and deliver innovative supply chain management solutions, providing C class parts to blue chip Aerospace OEMs and MRO customers. Mr. Rance has a successful track record in developing growth and innovation strategies for world class consumer brands and disruptive B2B e-commerce and service businesses. Successively, he was Global Head of Product Innovation and Global VP Marketing & E-Commerce for the Speedo swimwear brand and led its Global Innovation Team Aqualab prior to the Beijing and London Olympics. Starting his career at a leading US strategy consultancy Marakon Associates, he then co-founded the world's first online supply chain management software platform linking apparel brands and retailers with their global supply base.

Mr. Matthew Gifford is the Aerospace Structures Product Manager for Mitsui Seiki (USA), Inc. with over 18 years of experience in applications and manufacturing process development for aerostructure components including high speed aluminum and titanium part processes – from concept to delivery. Mr. Gifford has worked in job shops, Top Tier suppliers, and OEM environments with a focus on best practices for consistent part production performance.

Mr. Jose Pevida has deep experience in design engineering and certification through a 27-year career in the field, beginning work with HAECO Americas (then TIMCO Aviation Services) as a project engineer in 1996 and helped lead the development of HAECO Cabin Solutions’ Organization Designation Authorization (ODA). Mr. Pevida has guided the transformation of HAECO’s engineering department into a multi-skill unit capable of designing, testing and certifying aircraft interiors integration projects and a range of manufactured products, including the Vector™ line of aircraft seats. Mr. Pevida holds a Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering and an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology, and is an FAA-approved Design Engineering Representative (DER) for mechanical systems and cabin safety.
Mr. Kevin Baker joined the Airport Authority in January 2008. Previously, he served as a Vice President of the Michael Baker Corporation, a large international consulting firm, and in that capacity served as a consultant to the Authority, leading major airport development programs including the FedEx Mid-Atlantic Hub and the Honda Aircraft Company’s global headquarters and manufacturing facilities. Mr. Baker has also served in a consultant role for major programs at airports nationwide. Mr. Baker holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University.

Mr. James Trogdon was appointed Secretary of Transportation in January 2017 by Governor Roy Cooper. A registered professional engineer with more than 30 years of experience in transportation, Secretary Trogdon has held numerous roles within the public and private sectors, most recently serving as national transportation director for the SAS Institute. Secretary Trogdon first joined NCDOT in 1985 and was named Division 4 Engineer in 2000 and also served as NCDOT’s Chief Operations Officer from 2009 until he retired in 2013. Previously, he worked as the director of strategic transportation planning for the North Carolina General Assembly. In addition, he has more than three decades of military service, and retired in 2016 as the Deputy Adjutant General for the N.C. National Guard. Secretary Trogdon earned a Master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, as well as Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Civil Engineering from N.C. State University.

Mr. Rick Reed leads the aerospace economic development initiative in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina, working closely alongside the leadership teams with the Piedmont Triad Partnership, the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and the Piedmont Triad International Airport. Mr. Reed is a seasoned aerospace executive leader with 41 years industry experience and has worked in various industry segments including airline, business and general aviation, OEM and MRO companies. Most recently, he served as President of Triumph Actuation Systems and Piedmont Aviation Component Services. Mr. Reed is an Aerospace Engineering graduate of North Carolina State University.

Mr. Greg Benedict is Senior Manager of the Parts Manufacturing Group for Honda Aero, Inc (HAI) in Burlington, NC. HAI is responsible for Honda’s aviation engine operations including Sales, Marketing, Purchasing, Manufacturing and Maintenance. Mr. Benedict has supported HAI since 2008 for facility construction and the establishment of manufacturing, maintenance, and strategic planning operations. Prior to this assignment, he worked for 19 years at Honda manufacturing facilities in Alabama, Ohio, and Japan.
Dr. Andrew W. White: Lt. Colonel, USAF (Retired)

Dr. Andrew White brings three decades of experience serving and leading in aerospace and defense, higher education and workforce development. From 2007 to 2018 he led the University of Tennessee’s outreach and service to the A&D industry, serving first as Director of the Aerospace & Defense MBA and then Director of the Aerospace & Defense Business Institute. His primary areas of interest include the link between higher education, training and economic development and best practices for increasing student engagement and success. Dr. White also served a 20-year career as an Air Force officer, including assignments as a squadron commander, as public affairs director for Air Force Special Operations Command and as a faculty member and senior administrator at Air University. During his military career, he deployed six times in support of contingency and combat operations. Dr. White holds a Doctorate degree in Education Leadership from the University of Southern California.

John Huff: VP, Human Resources • HAECO Americas

Mr. John Huff leads the Human Resources teams within HAECO Americas Aircraft Maintenance and Corporate groups. Known for his ability to apply continuous improvement techniques to administrative environments and his use of technology to solve problems, he also leads the Talent Acquisition team. Much of his current work centers on the best methods for connecting to job candidates in a demanding and complex technical environment. Before joining HAECO Americas, he held several HR management positions with Burlington Industries, Inc. Mr. Huff holds undergraduate degrees from Presbyterian College and an MBA from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Nicolas (Nick) Yale: Director, Aviation Programs • GTCC

Mr. Nicolas Yale joined Guilford Technical Community College in May of 2015. As Director of Aviation Programs, his goals have been to develop teams of faculty with clear process, procedure and autonomy in their positions to support the industry demand for technical graduates in the region. Mr. Yale has 29 years of experience and knowledge in the aviation industry primarily in avionics and maintenance as a technician, instructor, reliability analyst and senior manager. Most recently, he worked for Boeing Defense, Space & Security, where he served as Senior Manager, Integrated Logistics Support Planning and Management for the KC-46A Tanker. Mr. Yale began his aviation career with Delta Airlines as a senior aircraft avionics technician. His role later expanded to technical instructor for aircraft engines and systems where he worked with a team to develop and implement the training curriculum for new engine and airframe systems. Mr. Yale went on to serve 15 years at FedEx Express in various leadership roles.

Dr. Timothy P. Munyon: Associate Professor • University of Tennessee

Dr. Timothy P. Munyon is an Associate Professor of Management. Presently, he is also a co-founder and current managing director at Red Castle Human Capital – a workforce analytics and consulting company. Dr. Munyon researches human capital with an emphasis on improving performance, motivation, and retention. Also, he serves as a core faculty member in the Aerospace & Defense MBA program, Master of Science in Management and Human Resources program, and the Professional MBA program at the Haslam College. In 2018 he was awarded the “Outstanding Aerospace & Defense Faculty Award” for teaching contributions. Dr. Munyon holds a Ph.D. degree from Florida State University.
**Moderator & Speaker Biographies**

**SpeedNews 7th Annual Aerospace Manufacturing Conference**

---

### Dr. Bert P. Erdel: President • IMS

Dr. Bert Erdel is the President of IMS, LLC, an executive consulting firm, specializing in New Generation Manufacturing, Advisory of “Disruptive” Technologies and Process-based Corporate Growth across the Tier Supply Chain. Previously, he was President/CEO for three world-leading manufacturing companies for over 20 years. Dr. Erdel has authored three book publications on Advanced Manufacturing, Innovative Machining, Corporate Competitiveness, and has also published more than two dozen technical papers on relevant manufacturing-related topics.

---

### Scott Blake: President • Aligned Vision

Mr. Scott Blake is President of Aligned Vision (formerly Assembly Guidance), a company he co-founded 32 years ago to implement his vision of applying laser projection technology to industrial fabrication. Through “laser templating,” his technology has eliminated the need for costly physical templates, hundreds of which had to be created and warehoused for each composite aerospace component. Mr. Blake has led the Aligned Vision team as it has uncovered many hidden costs in aerospace manufacturing and developed solutions that represent numerous industry “firsts”: multitasking lasers, automatic ply verification, AutoAim, AutoFocus, KitGuide, full integration, automatic inspection, and the first use of AI in aerospace composite component inspection. His Composites Manufacturing Process Control System, forerunner of Aligned Vision’s BUILDGUIDE fabrication management system, garnered him the 2000 National Tibbetts award for SBIR work.

---

### Ronnie Wilson: Lead Technology Project Manager • GKN Aerospace

Mr. Ronnie Wilson leads GKN Aerospace North America’s major technology development programs including Large Scale Titanium Additive Manufacturing and Friction Stir Welding of Aluminum Lithium Alloys. Previously, he served as a Senior Integration Engineer supporting the 737Max & 777X Lip Skin Programs. After earning his Bachelor in Aerospace Engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, he started his career with Boeing as a Design Engineer. Upon earning his MS in Tech. Management, he accepted a key role in Boeing’s new Propulsion South Carolina Division in Charleston, SC. Mr. Wilson routinely participates in STEM outreach programs with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and The University of Tennessee Knoxville.

---

### Laura L. Ely: ADDvisor℠ Services Leader, The Barnes Group Advisors

Ms. Laura Ely specializes in driving technological change in organizations. This includes translating technical roadmaps into strategic business visions, building businesses cases, securing capital and operating funding, protecting and exploiting Intellectual Property, and collaborating across the industrial supply chain. Previously, as the Head of Technology for GKN Aerostructures, she was responsible for the build out of a new team focused on the maturation of laser/wire deposition for Titanium aerostructures after negotiating a CRADA between GKN Aerospace and Oak Ridge National Laboratory valued at $18M over five years. For 15 years, she has focused on improving metallic alloys and processes specifically for laser/wire deposition, friction stir welding, spin forming, machining and various wrought processes with application to Titanium aerostructures, Aluminum wing skins and inlet lip skins, and Copper electrical connectors, coinage and ammunition. Ms. Ely holds a Bachelor’s degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Missouri S&T.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Richard Grylls: Director, Application Engineering - Additive Mfg. • Carpenter Technology</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Richard Grylls started in metal Additive Manufacturing as a post-doctoral researcher at The Ohio State University. While at Ohio State, Mr. Grylls became the first user of the newly-commercialized Optomec LENS metal 3D printer. After working at GE Aviation for a few years, he joined Optomec, and served in a variety of positions including applications manager and general manager for the LENS metal 3D printing technology. In 2015, he joined SLM Solutions as the North American Technical Director, and in 2018 joined Carpenter Technology, where he leads the team assisting customers using Carpenter's leading range of Additive Manufacturing materials. Mr. Grylls holds a Bachelor's degree in Materials Science from The University of Oxford, and a Ph.D. in Metallurgy from The University of Birmingham.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Alex Huckstepp: Vice President, Business Development • Digital Alloys</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Alex Huckstepp has worked with some of the world’s most innovative manufacturers to help them develop additive manufacturing strategies, validate applications, and implement 3D printing solutions in production. Prior to joining Digital Alloys, he spent five years at leading polymer 3D printing companies, Carbon where he lead the Global Automotive Sales team, and Stratasys. Mr. Huckstepp holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's degree in Product Development Engineering from the University of Southern California.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ivan Madera: Chief Executive Officer • Morf3D</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ivan Madera is an accomplished executive, business transformation leader and entrepreneur, driving the transformative Additive Manufacturing industry. His work history spans enterprise founder and executive leadership roles in multi-hundred million dollar transformational programs and charitable human services organizations. With “two nickels” and an unwavering resolve to DEFINE the Metals Additive Manufacturing industry, in 2015 Ivan founded Morf3D Inc. Leveraging a 20yr history as a management consulting executive, he created a world-class enterprise focused on transformative solutions for the Aerospace, Defense and Industrial markets. Mr. Madera has a keen ability to convey complex ideas in beautifully simple ways, excelling at laying out a vision, and creating purposeful and meaningful partnerships that deliver win-win outcomes. Morf3D is a distinguished qualified supply-chain partner to Boeing and Honeywell Aerospace.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Dr. Mike Vasquez: Founder &amp; Chief Executive • 3Degrees</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mike Vasquez is a 3D Printing expert specializing in pushing the boundaries of advanced 3D printing technology and is the Founder and CEO of 3Degrees -- a consulting company focused on helping organizations maximize their investment in the technology. Over the past decade, he has worked side-by-side with some of the top machine manufacturers, material producers and end users in the industry, consulting with them to identify novel applications, test new materials, and develop frameworks to maximize R&amp;D efficiency and boost ROI. In the past 18 months, he has worked with a dozen companies to help them set up successful and safe facilities. Dr. Vasquez has also created a software tool called TRACE which aims to assist companies formalizing their use of 3D printing to ensure they can meet quality and technical standards outlined by their supply chain and industry requirements. Dr. Vasquez completed his PhD in Additive Manufacturing at Loughborough University and received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from MIT in Materials Science and Engineering.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>