

Speakers & Presenters



Welcome Address

David Forward | Vice President of Operations, Woodward Inc. and Co-Chair of the Rockford Area Aerospace Network

David Forward joined Woodward in 2018 as Vice President of Quality for the Aircraft Turbine Systems Group.

Prior to joining Woodward David worked at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, CT as a Deputy Production Chief overseeing rate readiness for entry into service of the Geared Turbofan Engine models for Bombardier, Mitsubishi and Embraer.

David started his career in the USAF as a F-15E Crew Chief. After leaving the Air Force he joined Midway Airlines in Raleigh, NC where he performed flightline maintenance on Boeing and Bombardier aircraft. He later joined GE Aviation as an Assembly and Test Technician where he worked on various commercial engine programs. David spent 11 years with GE and progressed through various roles and locations from A&T Technician to



David Forward

Materials Manager, GE90 Operations Manager, Quality Manager and Plant Manager. David earned his bachelor's degree in Aircraft Systems Maintenance and his MBA with a concentration in finance from Campbell University. He also has an Airframe and Powerplant License from the FAA. David is married to his wife, Brandy, and has two children Weston (17) and Natalie (16). Outside of work David enjoys mountain biking, water skiing and reading.

Keynote Speaker

Geoff Hunt | Senior Vice President, Engineering & Technology Pratt & Whitney
Aircraft Engine Technology Development

Geoff Hunt is senior vice president of Engineering & Technology at Pratt & Whitney, the company that introduced the GTF™ family of engines in 2016 to drive down the environmental impact of the latest generation of commercial airframes. He leads Pratt & Whitney's global Engineering team, with a focus on designing and supporting the Pratt & Whitney portfolio of engine programs, developing technical leadership and capability, and advancing technologies that will support the next generation of commercial and military engines.

Hunt's 38-year career in the aerospace industry has included leading roles in the development of landmark products in aerospace. He was most recently senior vice president, Engineering & Technology for Collins Aerospace. In this position, Hunt led product development programs to ensure the company continued to offer differentiating technologies to meet customer needs, as well as ensuring flawless Engineering program execution by leading the implementation of best practice processes, tools and resources across the enterprise.

Hunt began his career as an engineer at Rolls-Royce, where he spent 13 years working on large commercial engine development programs before joining United Technologies. His past 25 years of experience includes roles of increasing responsibility in Engineering and



Geoff Hunt

program management at both Pratt & Whitney and Collins Aerospace, where he provided leadership across a large range of products and platforms, including product development, system integration and program execution for the 787 Dreamliner.

Hunt is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Sheffield University, England, and an MBA from Boston University. He is also an elected member of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, a member of the University of Connecticut's School of Engineering Industry Advisory Board and sits on the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut Science Center. In addition, Geoff is involved in a number of STEM organizations and activities to support the next generation of scientists and engineers, including being an active Board Member of Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, and of Friends of Christ Hospital USA.

Industry Update

Mike Stengel | Principal, Aerodynamic Advisory

Three Markets, Three Outlooks

Mike has held a life-long passion for aerospace, having starting flying lessons at the age of 12 and becoming a commercial pilot with an instrument rating by age 19 before beginning a career in consulting. Over the last 10 years, Mike has advised clients across the aerospace industry, having led or contributed to over 100 consulting engagements covering business strategy, market analysis, & transaction advisory subjects, and also oversees AeroDynamic Advisory's aftermarket-related intellectual capital. He is a frequent guest speaker at industry conferences, universities, and company events, and resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan with his husband.



Kevin Michaels

Presentation

David Boulay | President, IMEC

Building the Workforce of Tomorrow – Today

With a Ph.D in Workforce Development and Education from Ohio State University, a Masters of Business Administration from Franklin University and a Bachelor of Science in Operations from Binghamton University, David's leadership has developed from diverse setting that extend from a family-owned business, to manufacturing, universities and nonprofits, these various experiences help guide IMEC's public-private partnerships strategic direction to serve as catalyst from small and mid-sized company competitiveness.



David Boulay

Panel Discussion

Saba T. Jaffery | Executive Director of Power & Control Supply Chain, Collins Aerospace

Saba T. Jaffery is the Executive Director of Power & Controls Supply Chain at Collins Aerospace, a division of Raytheon Technologies (NYSE: RTX). In this role, Saba is responsible for leading the Power & Controls Supply Chain organization including performance of the supply base, procurement execution, commodity management, new product sourcing, out of production sourcing, and execution of the overall supply chain strategy to ensure achievement of performance and cost objectives. Most recently, Saba was Senior Director of Global Strategic Sourcing for Castings | Forgings | Machining across the Collins Aerospace enterprise. Her prior roles include assignments in: supply



chain management, program and general management, Saba T. Jaffery
business development, quality and supplier quality,
operations, factory transfers and continuous improvement. Saba holds a BS in Industrial
Engineering and Management Sciences (IEMS) and a Master of Engineering Management
(MEM), both from Northwestern University. In her spare time, Saba serves on the
Northwestern University IEMS and MEM advisory boards. She is a chair for the Rockford,
Illinois, Chamber of Commerce's Lead 360 organization. Saba is an executive sponsor for
the Collins Aerospace Women In Aerospace Rockford chapter and additionally serves on
the board of the Northwestern Illinois chapter of the YWCA.

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Ted Frericks | Director of Global Supply Chain accountable for Global Category
Management, Woodward

Mr. Ted Frericks is the Director of Global Supply Chain accountable for Global Category Management. A Woodward member for 19 years, Ted has been leading category teams at Woodward for several years ranging from machined components, castings, special processes, mechanical engineered products, electronics, and electro-mechanical products.



Ted Frericks

Prior to his work as a team leader, he worked as a Global Supplier Manager in Supplier Engineered Components located at Woodward's Rockford, Illinois and Fort Collins, Colorado campuses. Ted has a total of 26 years supply chain management experience beginning with the specialty metals industry and with AGCO Corporation where he was a member of the Global Sourcing team responsible for enterprise level categories.

An Illinois native, Mr. Frericks earned his bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University. Ted and his wife Kristen live in Fort Collins, Colorado and have 3 sons: Jakob (26), Theo (18), and Charlie (14). In his spare time, Ted is an amateur bicycle builder, avid

cyclist on mountain and trail, and a struggling musician who still hasn't mastered guitar after playing for 37 years.

Breakout Session A

Todd Spierling | Principal Technical Fellow, Collins Aerospace

Net Zero by 2050 – The Contribution of Electrification to Aviation Sustainability

Todd Spierling is a Principal Technical Fellow for Systems Engineering with a focus in Electrification. He is a part of the Power & Controls Engineering organization located in Rockford, Illinois.

In his current role, Todd provides technical leadership in all elements of aircraft electrification, including Electric Propulsion, More Electric secondary systems, and Propulsion, Power & Thermal Management Systems. He supports customer technology engagements, new business pursuits, and company and corporate level strategic technology planning.



Todd Spierling

He has previously led product groups for generators, motors, power electronics and emergency power systems, as well as corporate and business level advanced projects and research organizations. He joined Raytheon (Sundstrand) in 1986.

Todd has been awarded 43 US and foreign patents and has authored multiple conference papers. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University, a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech, an MBA from Columbia College, and is currently pursuing his systems engineering PhD at Colorado State.

Brian Steele | Nexus Program Director, Textron e-Aviation
Electrification Breakout

Brian Steele is a native of Wichita, KS and enjoys calling the “Air Capital of the World” home. He earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering from Wichita State University and began his career at Cessna Aircraft Company in 1992. Throughout his 31-year career at Textron, Brian has held multiple leadership positions and has enjoyed exploring numerous opportunities throughout the company, including becoming a pilot. He has supported the jet, turboprop, and piston product lines, in addition to McCauley propellers and Special Mission programs. Brian is currently the Program Director for the Nexus eVTOL project at Textron eAviation, Textron’s newest business unit, dedicated to innovation and the electrification of a full product line of aircraft.



Brian Steele

Breakout Session B

Ken Wunderlich | Technical Specialist, IMEC
Business Preparation Steps before Automation

I believe that everyone has a toolbox of skills, and it's these abilities that make people successful. As a

Technical Specialist at IMEC, I strive to create or expand the toolboxes of Illinois manufacturers and the Leadership Team. By expanding their toolbox with new skills and systems I intend to positively influence their future achievements.

I work alongside various companies in Illinois, providing technical assistance to manufacturers and service-oriented firms through consulting and training. I also implement solutions to help companies improve their organization



overall. Utilizing my experience in various fields, including Ken Wunderlich medical device, automotive, and consumer manufacturers, I can objectively review and assist clients with continuous improvement efforts related to quality management systems and process. This allows me to facilitate improvement in heavily regulated environments.

With more than 22 years of experience in both manufacturing and product design, I have acquired a diverse set of skills in various manufacturing arenas. My experience ranges from medical devices, automotive products, food packaging, consumer products, maintaining ISO 9001, AS9100, IATF 16949, ISO 13485, and 21CFR regulations, certifications for medical devices, and more. My primary skill set lies within process development, improvement, and organization. I have seen a variety of processes from the perspective of both supplier and customer, which has provided a unique addition to my toolbox – diplomacy. Finding a solution is my goal. Let me find your solution.

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Angelika Nowosadko | Technical Specialist, IMEC

Generation Gap to Generation Bridge: Mapping the Employee Journey Across Generation

As an immigrant child raised by parents working in manufacturing, Angelika has a deep appreciation for the blue-collar employee experience. She has coupled her continued education in Industrial and Organizational psychology with her Human Resources experience in distribution and manufacturing, to provide workforce support. She is experienced in benefits management, problem solving, change management initiatives, associate relations, the onboarding experience, and employee feedback and engagement tools. Based in Chicago, IMEC allows her the opportunity to assist



Angelika Nowosadko

manufacturers in their onboarding procedures, employee journey mapping consultation, formal and informal employee feedback and engagement tools, and employee training. Partnered, Angelika will bring your workforce to the next level.

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