An Iconic Legacy

Founded in 1919 as the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce (ACCA)

- A chartered membership of 100 major US aircraft manufactures
- Early members included Orville Wright and Glen H. Curtiss,
  - Shown is an ACCA meeting held at the Waldorf Astoria, New York City
The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), founded in 1919 only a few years after the birth of flight, is the premier trade association representing major aerospace and defense manufacturers and suppliers in the United States. AIA is led by a Board of Governors that meets twice a year and consists of senior representatives of member companies. A hallmark of AIA is that it receives its policy guidance from the direct involvement of CEO-level officers of the country’s major aerospace and defense companies. The US government frequently seeks advice from AIA on issues, and AIA provides a forum for government and industry representatives to exchange views and resolve problems on non-competitive matters related to the aerospace and defense industry.

Today, more than 340 major aerospace and defense companies and their suppliers are members of the association, embodying every high-technology manufacturing segment of the U.S. aerospace and defense industry from commercial aviation and avionics, to manned and unmanned defense systems, to space technologies and satellite communications.
AIA Board of Governors Leadership

Dennis A. Muilenburg

Chairman, Aerospace Industries Association
Chairman of the Board, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Boeing Company

Thomas A. Kennedy

Vice Chairman, Aerospace Industries Association
Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer, Raytheon Corp.

David F. Melcher

President & Chief Executive Officer
Aerospace Industries Association
Mr. Melcher is well known in Washington and to AIA member companies. Most recently Mr. Melcher was Chief Executive Officer and President of Exelis Inc., a leading global aerospace, defense and information solutions company. In this role, he served four years as a member of AIA’s Executive and Finance Committees.

Following a 32-year career in the U.S. Army, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Melcher joined ITT Corporation first as Vice President, Strategy and Business Development and then as President, ITT Defense and Information Solutions, before becoming the inaugural chief executive at Exelis following its spinoff from ITT in Oct. 2011. Mr. Melcher also led Exelis through its recent successful merger with Harris Corporation in May 2015.

Mr. Melcher has extensive program management, strategy development and finance experience, and worked closely with key leadership within the Army, Department of Defense, White House, and Congress. His Army career highlights include battalion and brigade command in Infantry and Armored divisions, and high-level military leadership and staff positions. As a general officer, he served in the Pentagon as the Army’s Military Deputy for Budget, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs (G8). He also served as Commanding General of the Corps of Engineers – Southwest Division in Dallas.
Aerospace Industries Association – 2017 Strategic Plan Overview

Vision
AIA shapes the American aerospace and defense industry’s future. We will unite our member companies to ensure safe air transportation systems, make America more secure, extend the horizons of exploration, drive innovation, and ensure a vibrant industrial base.

Mission
The Aerospace Industries Association is the collective voice of the U.S. aerospace and defense industry. We advocate for policies and responsible budgets that keep our country strong, bolster our capacity to innovate, and spur our economic growth.

Strategic Goals

Promote Policies and Budgets that Strengthen Aerospace and Defense and Grow the U.S. Economy

Improve U.S. Aerospace and Defense Infrastructure and Retain U.S. Industrial Base Capability

Be the Community of Choice for Aerospace and Defense Stakeholders

Achieve a Level Playing Field for U.S. Industry in the Global Marketplace

Enhance Safety & Security and Protect the Environment

Operating Model
AIA’s executives and expert staff collaborate with our members and government stakeholders to identify and overcome challenges facing the U.S. aerospace sector through effective legislation, regulations, business practices and standards.

Core Capabilities

Advocate
- Lobbying
- Regulatory Comment
- Media Engagement
- Speeches/Testimony

Promote
- Trade Shows
- Media & Advocacy
- Advertisement

Convene
- Councils, Committees & WGs
- Conferences and Meetings
- B2B & B2G
- Coalition Building

Communicate
- AIA Publications
- Presentations
- Media Engagement

CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • RESPONSIBILITY
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AIA Councils and Committees

Division are comprised of 10 Councils

- Acquisition Policy
- Civil Aviation Leadership
- Civil Aviation
- Communications
- Defense Policy
- International
- Space
- Supplier Management
- Technical Operations
- Workforce Policy

Division are comprised of 35 Committees

- Civil Aviation 4
- International 6
- National Security 10
- Space 3
- Technical Operations & Workforce Policy 6
- Membership: Supplier Management 2
- Legislative Affairs 4

Within the past year AIA increased membership from 310 to 341 members.
As of June 2017, AIA represents 163 full members and 178 associate member companies.

Mr. Rentsch has over 20 years of experience in both commercial and military aerospace industry sectors. This experience includes Technical Support Engineering and Commercial Support positions with Messier-Services Inc., and Engineering, Design, Standards, and Customer Support roles with Textron Lycoming and AIA. Mr. Rentsch has held management positions in both the Telecommunications industry and the Transportation Industry. He received a Masters Degree in Business Administration from George Mason University and a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering with Ocean Engineering from the University of Rhode Island. Currently, resides in Leesburg, VA with his wife Anya, and son Nicholas.
Technical Operations and Workforce Policy

Rusty Rentsch
Vice President, Technical Operations & Workforce

Christopher Carnahan
Director, Standardization

Gery Mras
Director, Lifecycle Management

Robin Thurman
Director, Workforce Policy

John Park
Standards Engineer

Beverly Kalamba
Manager, National Aerospace Standards
Council and Committee Descriptions

**Technical Operations Council**

**AIA Goal:** Policy for Research, Development, Engineering, Manufacturing, Quality, Sustainment, Interoperability, and Standardization

**Participants:** Senior (VP) Engineering Executives and Senior Technical Fellows

Council Lead: Rusty Rentsch, Vice President, Technical Operations & Workforce

**Engineering Management Committee, (G. Mras)**

**Subject:** Systems Engineering, Manufacturing, LOTAR, Tooling, Material Risk Management, Policy and advocacy

**Participants:** Director-level Engineering Management Professionals, Technical Fellows

**Targets:** DoD, NASA, FAA, Commercial Aviation,

**Quality Assurance Committee, (G. Mras)**

**Subject:** Quality Management Systems, FOD Prevention & NDT Qualification Standards, Counterfeit Parts, Policy and Advocacy

**Participants:** Director/VP-level Quality Assurance Executives

**Targets:** DoD, DCMA, DLA NASA, FAA, Commercial Aviation,

**Product Support Committee, (G. Mras)**

**Subject:** Sustainment Practices, Materiel Readiness, Maintenance Policy, Technical Publications (S1000D), Integrated Logistics Support Specifications (S-Series) and Advocacy, Public Private Partnering & Outcome based Logistics

**Participants:** Snr Manager to VP-level Logistics and maintenance SMEs, Technical Data Writers and Program Managers

**Targets:** DoD, DHS, DCMA, DLA, NASA, DISA, FAA, ASD, ATA and Commercial Aviation

**Business Technology Interoperability Committee (R. Thurman)**

**Subject:** Business Process Standards, Advocacy, Electronic Data and Information exchange

**Participants:** Information Technology, Business process and data exchange subject matter experts

**Targets:** DoD, DHS, FAA, NIST, ASD, ISO

**National Aerospace Standards Committee (C. Carnahan)**

**Subject:** Developing Aerospace quality Standards

**Participants:** Engineering practitioners, Manufacturing Managers

**Targets:** DoD, DLA, DCMA, NASA, Civil Aviation

**Standards Governance Board (C. Carnahan)**

**Subject:** Oversite of AIA Standards programs and opportunities

**Participants:** Industry Standards Experts and Government users

**Targets:** AIA Policy Councils DoD, FAA NASA
## Council and Committee Descriptions

### Workforce Policy Council

**AIA Goal:** Advocate effectively to retain a current critical workforce; work in collaboration with other stakeholders to inspire, prepare and attract a competitive future workforce that is innovative, agile and diverse.

**Participants:** Senior Human Resource professionals

- **Council Lead:** Ms. Robin Thurman, Director Workforce Policy

### Workforce Analytics Working Group (R. Thurman)

**Subject:** Partnership with AvWeek on annual A&D Workforce Study and other reports, data and analyses useful in advocating on behalf of A&D industrial base

**Participants:** Director and VP-level human resource professionals

**Targets:** DoD, NASA, FAA, Commercial Aviation,

### Workforce Learning & Development Working Group (R. Thurman)

**Subject:** Address all issues, inquiries and opportunities related to skilled manufacturing and technical workforce

**Participants:** Director and VP-level human resource professionals

**Targets:** DoD, FAA NASA, Commercial Aerospace

### STEM Workforce Working Group (R. Thurman)

**Subject:** Conduct state STEM forums

**Participants:** Director and VP-level human resource professionals

**Targets:** DoD, Civil Aviation, Local, State and Federal Policy makers
2017-2018 Product Support Committee Executive Board

- **Product Support Committee Chair**: Mike Kelly (Northrop Grumman)
- **Product Support Policy Chair**: Mr. John Johns (Northrop Grumman)
- **Product Support Technical Data Chair**: Mr. Craig Bronson (General Atomics Aeronautical Sys.)
- **Product Support Standards Chair**: Mr. Paul Haslam (O’Neil & Associates, Inc.)
- **At Large Board Member(s)**: Mr. Joe Fengler (Honeywell), Dr. Richard Gomez (Boeing), Mr. Pushpa Merchant (EPS)

Influence DoD product support policy & guidance through SME leadership and working level support for IPT’s and work groups.

Facilitate DoD implementation of aerospace industry best practices through the use of S1000D and other lifecycle product support standards.

Influence development and adoption of Integrated Logistics Specifications consistent with international aerospace industry best practices.

Primary interface to OSD executive level leadership for aerospace industry product support strategies & initiatives.

Primary interface to Government executive level leadership for aerospace industry product support strategies & initiatives.

Director
Life Cycle Management
Gerry Mras (AIA)
Mr. Haslam has been a member of the AIA Product Support Executive Board fulfilling the role of Chair of the Specifications and Standards committee, which is currently focused on the AIA/ASD S-Series ILS specifications in the USA. Mr. Haslam has been involved with the production and Maintenance of S1000D since 1998 and is currently the AIA industry representative, fulfilling the role of Chair, on the S1000D Council. He is also the Chair of the S1000D Production and Publishing Working Group. He has been involved with the rest of the S-Series for the last couple of years, recently fulfilling the role of Editor-in-Chief.
Mr. Craig Bronson
Senior Manager – Operations
Product Support Engineering
General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

Mr. Bronson has over 29 years of experience within the Product Support and Technical Publications domains spanning across General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, and now General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

Mr. Bronson is a Product Support professional with a specialized background in Technical Publications, Quality, and Processes. He has broad customer interface experience including direct negotiations with government officials as well as demonstrations of software and products at national conferences. Leader of numerous process improvement exercises with company recognition. First-line leadership experience with salary and represented employees.

He has Served on the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) Product Support Committee for over 10 years, including current and past chair of the Publications Subcommittee, past chair of the Special Logistics Subcommittee, and also served one term as a Product Support Executive Board Member at Large. Additionally served as a Board member of the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) / AIA International Logistics Specifications Council.

Mr. Bronson has a Bachelor of Business Administration from the M.J. Neeley School of Business, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, and is a graduate of the Business Management Institute, Lockheed Martin Corp., Center for Leadership Excellence, Bethesda, MD.
Mr. Pushpa Merchant  
Vice President & General Manager,  
Information Management Solutions  
EPS Corporation

Mr. Merchant is an entrepreneur who successfully started and operated a consulting business for 17 years. He has also advised other entrepreneurs with starting their businesses. His expertise in technical, managerial, and business development functions of a business makes him a unique asset to any company.

Until his company’s acquisition in 2013, he was President/CEO of PBM Associates, an information management solutions consulting firm that primarily provided services to the aerospace and defense sectors. In his current position as Vice President & General Manager of EPS Corporation’s Information Management Solutions division, he is responsible for the division’s performance and growth.

He has over 25 years of experience in the design and implementation of SGML/XML-based content management and delivery applications. Pushpa is a recognized Subject Matter Expert on Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM) design and implementation, and on information management applications.

He is the current Chair of the United States Specification Management Group (USSMG) and Secretary of the S1000D Steering Committee (SC).
AIA Today

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AIA will be the host of the 2018 S1000D User Forum
Questions?