



Al Stephenson – Cirrus Research

Consultant

Alan Stephenson is an aviation and defence consultant with 10 years of experience in military-industrial relations, an Academic Fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, and a 35-year veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. Following his retirement as a Colonel in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Alan completed his PhD in Political Science at Carleton University writing his thesis on Canadian National Security Culture. Alan is a graduate of Royal Roads Military College with a BSc in Physics and the United States Air Force Air War College where he received a Master of Strategic Studies with a focus on the strategic employment of airpower.

Alan's extensive knowledge of military aviation follows from his experience as a CF-18 pilot with 3600 hours flying fighters and as a staff officer at all levels of command. As Acting Wing Commander at 4 Wing Cold Lake and commander of deployed and resident CF-18 Squadrons, he has an in-depth understanding of frontline military requirements. Having held senior appointments such as Special Assistant to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, NATO AFNORTH Chief of Tactical Evaluation, and Director of Western Hemisphere Policy, he has a broad understanding of military and interagency operational and strategic interaction, both domestically and internationally. Operationally, Alan commanded the deployed CF-18 squadron in Aviano, Italy, following the NATO air campaign over the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and 410 Tactical Fighter (Operational Training) Squadron, Canada's CF-18 basic and advanced 'top gun' training schools.



Bart Leussink – Eurodev

Vice President - Advanced Technologies

Responsible for the development and execution of the 'Advanced Technologies' sales outsourcing business unit. Leading the sales team to facilitate North American technology providers expand their sales successfully in the European market.

Since 1996, EuroDev has been a partner for over 300 North American companies that have chosen EuroDev to develop their European sales & marketing activities. Together with our clients/partners, we implement strategic and cost-effective solutions that help them secure a more successful position in European markets.

EuroDev is the European representative of the StartAéro 360 program. As exclusive consultants for the European market, we identify opportunities on behalf of the Canadian SMEs we represent.



Thomas Boncompain, P. Eng. – GDOTS-C

Large Caliber Ammunition Product Manager & Strategy

Thomas Boncompain has been nominated Product Manager – Large Caliber Ammunition in March 2019. Mr. Responsibilities include ensuring the management of the Large Caliber product line, both for current products and for products in development. These products must maintain and improve the competitiveness of the company in the short, medium and long term by ensuring the relevance of the range vis-à-vis the market. Additionally, Mr. Boncompain also Chairs on the Strategic Technology group and led, with the GD team, successful introduction of several new products from R&D to Production such as the 57mm Target Practice Round for the US Navy.

Mr. Boncompain truly enjoys identifying future technologies and product strategies to define the next generation of value added solutions to sustain our plant operations. In the process, socializing, coordinating and aligning with my colleagues, along with building strong relationships with our customers are valuable keys to unlocking best path forward. Capture plans and business cases are key tools that tie in all elements of product strategy and commercial plan to win!



**Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) S.F. Cahill, –
Canadian Forces**

NATO Liaison Officer

Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) Stephen F. Cahill, from Bell Island, Newfoundland, enrolled in the Canadian Army as an Artillery Officer in June 1998 under the Regular Officer Training Program. He graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2002 but not before rebadging as an officer in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers (RCEME).

LCol Cahill was selected for sub-unit command and posted to 2 Service Battalion as the Officer Commanding Administration Coy in 2013. He was given the opportunity to deploy to Kuwait as an embedded planner in the newly formed American headquarters in the fall of 2014 as the Future Operations Logistics Planner for the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. Upon return from deployment in spring 2015, LCol Cahill was posted to 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group headquarters as the Brigade G4. He attended JCSP in the summer of 2016 and earned player of the match honours during the Chambrays final Rugby match of the 2016-17 season. LCol Cahill was subsequently selected as the Canadian Army representative in the Minister of National Defence's office where he was a Military Assistant to the Minister. LCol Cahill served as the Canadian Special Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) Equipment Management Team Leader in 2018-2020 and was then charged with managing the DRMIS ERP on behalf of the Army while awaiting a, COVID-19, delayed posting as the Canadian Liaison Officer to NSPA in Luxembourg.



Marc Bigaouette – Bell Textron Canada

Director - Canadian Government Programs

Marc Bigaouette joined the Canadian Forces in 1980 and spent most of his military career as a pilot with the Tactical Aviation community of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), flying the Bell 206, Bell 212 and Bell 412. A former member of 403, 427, 430 and 450 Sqns, he commanded the Canadian Helicopter Force (Afghanistan) in 2009 and the NATO Flying Training Center in Canada (NFTC) from 2010 to 2012. His staff positions have included Career Manager, Air Force Operations Officer, Director of Air Requirements (Tactical Aviation), Project Director for the acquisition of a Medium to Heavy Lift Helicopter, Director Air Force Training, Air Force Adviser to the United Kingdom and Military Attaché to the Republic of Iceland. He holds a Bachelor's degree in administration from the Royal Military College of Canada and a Masters in Military Art and Science from the US Air Force Air University in Alabama. He is also a graduate from the US Air Force Staff College and the UK's Royal College of Defence Studies. Marc was decorated with the Military Service Cross for his service in Afghanistan.

Upon retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces in 2017, Marc joined Bell as Director for the CH-146 Griffon Optimized Weapon System Support (OWSS) program where he led a team of some 100 dedicated members and sub-contractors supporting the RCAF fleet of 85 multi-role Griffon helicopters. In June 2021, he was promoted to the position of Director – Canadian Government Programs.

Marc is presently serving as Honorary President of the Air Force Association of Canada – Quebec chapter.



Marc Bigaouette – Bell Textron Canada

Premier Directeur – Programmes
Gouvernementaux Canadiens

Marc Bigaouette a joint les Forces armées canadiennes en 1980 et a cumulé plus de 37 années de service en tant que pilote d'hélicoptères tactiques au sein de l'Aviation Royale Canadienne, volant tour à tour les appareils Bell 206, Bell 212 and Bell 412. Ayant œuvré au sein de quatre escadrons de l'Aviation tactique (403, 427, 450 et 430), il s'est déployé à deux reprises en Égypte dans le cadre d'une mission de paix. Il a également commandé l'escadron 430 (Valcartier), la Force d'hélicoptères canadiens en Afghanistan ainsi que le centre d'entraînement en vol de l'OTAN au Canada. Ses assignations au sol incluent les postes de gérant de carrière, officier des opérations de l'Aviation Royale canadienne, Directeur des besoins aériens pour l'aviation tactique, Directeur du projet d'acquisition d'un hélicoptère à capacité d'emport moyen-lourd, Directeur de l'entraînement de la Force aérienne, aviseur de l'Aviation Royale Canadienne au Royaume-Uni et Attaché de défense du Canada en Islande. Il est détenteur d'un baccalauréat en administration du Collège Militaire Royal de St-Jean et d'une maîtrise en art et science militaire de l'université des Forces aériennes des Etats-Unis en Alabama. Il a également complété le Collège d'État-Major et de Commandement des Forces aériennes des États-Unis ainsi que le Collège Royal des Études sur la Défense des Forces armées britanniques. Marc a été décoré de la Croix du Service Militaire pour son service en Afghanistan.

Suite à sa retraite des Forces armées canadiennes en 2017, Marc s'est joint à Bell en tant que Directeur Principal – Soutien Optimisé du Système d'Armes CH-146. Dans cette capacité, il a assuré avec une équipe dédiée de plus de 100 personnes le soutien d'une flotte de 85 hélicoptères multirôle Griffon de l'Aviation Royale Canadienne. En juin 2021, il a été promu au poste de Premier Directeur – Programmes Gouvernementaux Canadiens.

Marc sert également à titre de Président Honoraire de l'Association de la Force Aérienne du Canada – Chapitre Québec.



Caroline Hilt - DEC

Directrice des communications

Titulaire d'une maîtrise en sciences politiques de l'Université Laval, Caroline a joint la fonction publique fédérale en 1998, après sa participation au Programme de stage parlementaire de la Chambre des communes. Elle a débuté sa carrière à Ottawa, où elle a occupé divers postes à responsabilités croissantes dans les domaines des communications, de la planification stratégique, des ressources humaines et des affaires parlementaires. Elle est directrice des communications pour Développement économique Canada depuis 2017.



Chip Laingen – LSI

Vice President, Midwest Region

Chip Laingen is the Executive Director of Defense Alliance, the Upper Midwest defense industry network, with members in 35 states. The Alliance was presented the prestigious “Progress Minnesota” award in 2014, became one of the nation’s three Advanced Defense Technology Clusters in 2010 and won the Veterans Small Business Champion of the Year Award in 2007. He is currently on the Advisory Committee for Full Stack Saint Paul, Cyber Security Summit and Midwest Cleantech Open; and previously served on the executive commission of the Minnesota Science & Technology Authority, the AirSpace MN and Robotics Alley Advisory Committees, and was selected as an Executive Fellow for the University of Minnesota’s Center for Integrative Leadership in 2012. In 2011 he joined the graduate faculty at the University of Minnesota’s Technological Leadership Institute where he teaches Risk Communications and Policy for Security. He is a past President of the Twin Cities Council of the Navy League and is the author of “Laingen on Leadership.”

Chip is also the Vice President, Midwest Region, Logistic Specialties, Inc. (LSI). He is an experienced professional for industry and technology-based business and economic development, with core expertise in Federal procurement, cluster development, and leadership development. He is the author of “Laingen on Leadership,” available on Amazon.

Commander Laingen is a 21-year Veteran of the U.S. Navy. A 1983 graduate of the University of Minnesota NROTC, he earned a B.A. degree in International Relations. Designated a Naval Aviator in 1985, he was assigned to seagoing squadrons aboard aircraft carriers, cruisers, frigates and destroyers, amassing 3,000 fixed and rotary wing flight hours, including combat support flight time during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991. He is also a qualified Officer of the Deck – Surface Warfare/Underway.



David Carrière Acco – Acosys

President and CEO

David Carrière-Acco, is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. He holds an MBA (International Business Concentration), as well as graduate degrees in Marketing, eCommerce and Business Analysis. Since launching Acosys in 2006, David has established himself and Acosys as a premier Indigenous-led consulting firm specializing in facilitating constructive and respectful Indigenous engagement on behalf of governments, corporate clients, and non-governmental organizations. David has worked with Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada, garnering extensive experience in the design, implementation, and facilitation of successful Indigenous engagement initiatives.

In 2008, Julie and David created an Indigenous Internship Program which provides the opportunity for Indigenous people to work and be mentored on their client projects. This has earned Acosys numerous awards and newsworthy media articles. The program has been very successful to create opportunity to Indigenous people but also bring greater workplace diversity. Both Julie and David believe that critical part of Canada's path to reconciliation with its Indigenous people is dependent inclusion in Canadian economy and workforce within a spirit of Nation-to-Nation relationship.

Today, David is passionate about the use technology combined with Indigenous Traditional Knowledge to develop environmental protection and climate adaptation solutions for all of Canada and continues his work to build Indigenous capacity especially in STEM professions. He also is a proud member of the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves as an officer in the Air Cadet program promoting development of Canada's youth and interest in the aviation and aerospace.



**Glenn Copeland - Lockheed Martin
Canada RMS**

Director, Business Development

Mr. Copeland began his career in 2009 as a Project Manager within the Halifax Class Modernization (HCM) program where he managed software development projects for training systems while supporting business development initiatives related to the National Shipbuilding and Procurement Strategy. In 2014, Mr. Copeland was appointed to the Senior Leadership team where he assumed the role of Economic Development Opportunities lead for Lockheed Martin Canada serving directly for the Vice President on matters of economic strategy, coupled to the company's long range Industrial Technical Benefits plan.

Currently the Director, Business Development for Lockheed Martin Canada Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS) Mr. Copeland supports multiple lines of business including Integrated Warfare Systems, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and the Training and Logistics arm of RMS. In addition, he oversees the business investment funding strategy for LM Canada. He has held lead roles in the pursuit and capture of the Canadian Surface Combatant program and currently oversees the company's strategy in regard to securing and maintaining the winning position, leading the six industry partner team in the collective effort.

Mr. Copeland is a past president of the Aerospace and Defense Industries Association of Nova Scotia (ADIANS) and chair of the Atlantic Alliance Aerospace and Defence Association where he worked with Federal and Provincial government departments under the common goal of promoting the Aerospace and Defence Industrial membership from all Atlantic provinces. A former Senior Naval Officer with extensive operational sea time, Mr. Copeland was lead for the Canadian Navy's Fleet readiness and training team as well as the lead Tactics and Procedural development officer at the Navy's warfare school. He was awarded key leadership positions, including Operations Officer for the Sea Training Atlantic group and Executive Officer of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship ST. JOHN'S, after which, he was selected to return to Sea Training once again, serving as the organization's Executive Officer.



Jessica Vo – GDMS-C

Industrial Participation Manager

Jessica Vo is the Industrial Participation Manager at General Dynamics Mission Systems–Canada, managing the company’s international and Canadian offset programs, including several new contracts under the Canadian Industrial and Technological Benefits Value Proposition policy. Ms. Vo previously worked in private practice as a family and child welfare litigation lawyer and remains a member in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario. After joining GDMS–C’s Contracts department in 2017 to support a growing offset portfolio, she has prioritized company- and corporation-wide offset strategic initiatives such as inter-business unit training, small-and-medium business and Indigenous-owned business supplier engagement, and post-secondary research partnerships.



Louise Mercier

Senior Defence Executive

Louise Mercier is a high-profile senior industry defence consultant, expert in Canadian defence procurement practices and policies, specializing in industrial win-strategies. Louise brings twenty-five+ battle-hardened years of experience to Canadian military acquisition process and is expert in the practices and policies of the defence procurement process.

Named as one of Canada's Top 10 Defence Lobbyists in 2018, she is best known for providing clear, crisp strategic counsel to win large complex multi-million-dollar military equipment programs with modern, partnerships and alliances.

She is best known for her strong relationships at executive levels of industry, government and the defence media.

Louise provides strategic guidance and specific support to help build and implement capture strategies complex, military industrial programs, ranging in value up to \$26B. Her insights, and crisp strategic counsel through the full range of the business capture processes (competitive analysis, price to win, probability of win strategies, strategic partnerships) has been the key to her client's success.

She has specialized in complex system integration programs and has helped to win various contracts in various information management programs that include C2 /C4 systems, above and underwater combat systems, training systems, weapons, weapon systems, sensors and sonar' systems in both air and naval defence environments.

She has provided consulting services for a number of national and international firms including but not limited to; DCNS, CAE, Davie Shipyards, Heddle Shipyards, Paradigm Shift, VARD, Navtech Architects, CMC Electronics, 3M, General Dynamics, MBDA, Workday, Thyssen Krupp, and Kongsburg . Before providing consulting services, she held increasing levels of business development roles with KPMG, Lockheed Martin, CMC Electronics, and ADGA.



Marie-Ève Jean – Investissement Québec

Vice-présidente, exportations

Marie-Eve Jean a été nommée au poste de vice-présidente, Exportations d'Investissement Québec International en juin 2020.

Mme Jean a œuvré au soutien des entreprises exportatrices à différents niveaux, au Québec comme à l'étranger. Ainsi, elle a travaillé, de 2011 à 2017, au ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation (MEI-Export Québec) où elle a occupé le poste de directrice des marchés de l'Asie-Pacifique et de l'Océanie puis de directrice régionale de Montréal au MEI avant d'être nommée déléguée générale du Québec à Munich, en mai 2018.

Mme Jean est titulaire d'un baccalauréat en administration des affaires (gestion internationale et gestion des opérations et de la production) de HEC Montréal. Elle a également complété la formation Cercle des jeunes leaders de la fonction publique à l'École nationale d'administration publique et a poursuivi des études spécialisées en management à l'Université de Saint-Gall (University of St. Gallen), en Suisse.



Marie-Ève Jean – Investissement Québec

Vice-President, Exports, Investissement Québec International

Marie-Eve Jean was appointed Vice-President, Exports, of Investissement Québec International in June 2020.

After holding the position of Director, Asia-Pacific and Oceania Markets at the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation (MEI-Export Québec) from 2011 to 2017, Ms. Jean took over as Montréal Regional Director at the MEI and then was appointed Québec's Delegate General in Munich in May 2018. Thus, her career path has involved working to support exporters at different levels, both in Québec and abroad.

Ms. Jean holds a bachelor's degree in business administration (international management and operations and production management) from HEC Montréal and has completed the Cercle des jeunes leaders de l'administration publique program at the École nationale d'administration publique. She has also taken specialized management courses at the University of St. Gallen, in Switzerland.



John Mac Dougall, P. Eng. – GDOTS-C

Vice President Strategy & Business Development

John Mac Dougall has been nominated Vice President, Business Development and Strategies on July 5, 2019. Corporate Director, Research and Development (2016 – 2019) was responsible for all R&D activities at the Le Gardeur (Ammunition Load, Assemble and Pack), Valleyfield (Extruded Propellant) and St-Augustin, QC (Projectiles and Brass Cases) facilities with a combined technical team of more than 50 engineers, chemists and technicians at General Dynamics Ordnance Tactical Systems-Canada Inc. .The R&D team of experts are specialized in the design, development, testing and qualification of new, large, medium, and small calibre ammunition primarily for the Canadian DND and the US DoD. R&D revenues doubled under his leadership.

Director, Programs, Development and Technologies (2012 - 2016) He, managed two technical departments and was responsible for all Canadian and commercial programs and R&D programs for General Dynamics Ordnance Tactical Systems-Canada Inc. at the Le Gardeur facility, which is specialized in the manufacturing of large, medium, and small calibre ammunition.

European Sales Manager – Simulation Business Unit (2009 – 2012). Grew sales by 64% over 3 years in his territory. Actively managed 33 foreign distributors. Responsible for gathering market intelligence and formulating competition strategies. Contributing member of the Corporate Strategic Planning group.

Mr. MacDougall holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering (1984) from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada and is an active member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec.



Michael Petric – Avascent

Director and Head of the Ottawa Office

Michael Petric is the Head of Avascent's Ottawa Office. He and his team in Ottawa focus on serving public sector leaders that are working to advance Canada's interests in key sectors of the economy such as defence, aerospace, transportation and energy.

Prior to joining Avascent, Michael worked with the McCain Institute for International Leadership and Human Rights First in Washington, D.C. on issues affecting North American integration and security. Michael also served as a civilian advisor to two Ministers of National Defence and as an Infantry Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. Michael's service in the Canadian military included an operational tour to Afghanistan where he was awarded the Canadian Joint Operations Command Commendation for his work professionalizing the Afghan National Army. Michael graduated from the University of Ottawa with a B.A. in History and Political Science and completed a M.A. in international affairs at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Ottawa. He completed his MBA at IE Business School in Madrid, Spain and is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).



Michel Dion – Bell Textron Canada

Directeur, Innovation

Michel Dion dirige une équipe de spécialistes techniques passionnés par la recherche et développement chez Bell. Son objectif premier est de générer des innovations pour les prochaines générations de produits à décollage vertical commercial et de redéfinir les besoins d'un futur à notre portée. Drones, taxis aériens et mobilité sur demande sont des thèmes de prédilection pour son équipe.

Michel s'est joint à Bell en 2006 à titre de leader d'équipe de produits intégrés, pour le programme de mise à niveau de l'appareil 206L Long Ranger. Il a ensuite occupé différents rôles au sein du leadership, en développement de produits et activités de R&D dans le cadre, entre autres, de consortiums tels CRIAQ, CARIC et GARDN.

Michel est à la tête de projets complexes en aéronautique depuis plus de 20 ans. Avant de se joindre à Bell, il a dirigé différents projets dans le cadre du programme CF-18 chez L-3 MAS et à la Division des services à la défense de Bombardier aéronautique.

Détenant un baccalauréat en Sciences spatiales du Collège militaire royal du Canada ainsi qu'une maîtrise en gestion de projet de l'Université du Québec à Montréal, Michel est un des joueurs majeurs qui nous aidera à aller au-delà du vol.



Peter DeJong – GDLS-C

Industrial Participation & Offset Management

Peter deJong is responsible for Industrial Participation & Offset at General Dynamics Land Systems – Canada. In his role, Mr. deJong manages domestic and international Industrial Participation & Offset obligations, proposals and awareness. In addition, Mr. deJong is the Chair of the General Dynamics Supply Chain Council, International Offset Committee.

Mr. deJong, served a short term assignment as Head of Supply Chain, at General Dynamics Land System – United Kingdom, and prior to his overseas assignment, Mr. deJong held a number of positions as Supply Chain Management – Management and Procurement; Program Management – International programs; and Industrial Participation & Offset.

Mr. deJong is active enabling GDLS-Canada's involvement in implementing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives in areas focused on supporting inclusion of Indigenous Peoples.

Mr. deJong has over 36 years' experience in the defence and manufacturing industry, and held positions of increasing responsibility beginning his career in manufacturing at General Motors Canada, Windsor Trim, and then moving to General Motors Diesel Division, in 1991, and GM Defense, prior to General Dynamics Land Systems Canada's acquisition, 2003.

Mr. deJong holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Geography) from University of Windsor.



Ray Townsend – Lockheed Martin Canada

Chief of Operations

Ray joined Lockheed Martin Canada in 2020 following 23 years as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). In addition to flying Anti-Submarine Warfare and Long-Range Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) missions on the CP-140 Aurora, he commanded deployed forces over Iraq and the domestic aircrew training squadron for the CP-140 in Canada. As a Senior Officer in the RCAF, he concluded his career as the Director responsible for the management of Air Force readiness across all RCAF fleets as well as strategic programs relating to operational efficiencies and airworthiness.

As a central point of contact in the Lockheed Martin Canada executive team, Ray collaborates with the business areas throughout the broad portfolio of Lockheed Martin products and technologies to help Canada address its security and defence challenges. He works with his team to provide expertise and guidance supporting Lockheed Martin's business strategy in Canada, maintaining and strengthening strategic customer and partner relationships.

Ray graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with an honours degree in Business and Economics. He subsequently completed a Masters in Security and Defence Management and Policy and a Masters in Defence Studies.



Richard Aboulafia – TEAL Group

Vice President, Analysis

Richard is Vice President of Analysis at Teal Group. He manages consulting projects in the commercial and military aircraft field and analyzes broader defense and aerospace trends. He has advised numerous aerospace companies, including most prime and many second- and third-tier contractors in the US, Europe and Asia. He also advises numerous financial institutions on aerospace market conditions. Richard writes and edits Teal Group's World Military and Civil Aircraft Briefing, a forecasting tool covering over 135 aircraft programs and markets. He also writes publicly about aviation and defense, with regular columns in Aviation Week and Space Technology and at Forbes.com. His articles have also appeared in Slate.com, the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Professional Pilot, and other publications. Frequently cited as an aviation industry authority by trade and news publications, Richard has also appeared on numerous television news and radio programs including ABC, BBC, Bloomberg, Reuters, CBS, CNN, NBC, NPR and PBS. He has spoken at numerous conferences, including ATRIF, NAFA, NARA, Network for Aerospace Management in Europe (NAME), and Speednews. He 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, Richard 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. He has a Masters degree in War Studies from King's College, University of London and a Bachelors degree from George Washington University. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, Casey, son, Simon, and daughter, Wren.



Richard Blanchet – STIQ

Président-directeur général

Diplômé en génie chimique (baccalauréat et maîtrise) ainsi qu'en gestion (D.E.S.G.), Richard Blanchet a commencé sa carrière dans le secteur manufacturier en occupant divers postes au niveau du support à la production ou la gestion des opérations manufacturières au sein de petites et grandes entreprises.

M. Blanchet a été responsable, entre autres, de la gestion des fournisseurs durant le développement de produit ainsi que de la gestion des clients.

President and CEO

President and CEO of STIQ, Richard Blanchet has been with the organization since 2004. Mr. Blanchet has also served as the Director of Business Development and as Assistant General Manager of the organization. His achievements include pioneering the Podium development program as well as the repositioning of the association as a key player in the manufacturing sector.

With a degree in chemical engineering (bachelor and master) as well as in management (D.E.S.G.), Richard Blanchet began his career in the manufacturing sector by holding various positions in production support or management of manufacturing operations in small and medium-sized companies as well as large companies. Mr. Blanchet has been responsible for, among other things; product development, supplier management and customer management.



**Contre-amiral (retraité) Simon Page, OMM, CD
– SPAC**

Sous-ministre adjoint, Approvisionnement maritime et Défense, SPAC

Le contre-amiral Page s'est enrôlé dans les Forces canadiennes en 1984 en tant qu'ingénieur et a obtenu son baccalauréat en informatique au Collège militaire royal en 1989. À la fin de sa formation initiale en génie des systèmes de combat de divers navires, il a obtenu sa qualification de chef de service à bord du Navire canadien de Sa Majesté (NCSM) NIPIGON en juillet 1992.

Il a ensuite été affecté pendant quatre ans à l'École du génie naval des Forces canadiennes à titre d'instructeur du génie des systèmes de combat avant d'être nommé officier du génie des systèmes de combat à bord du NCSM ATHABASKAN.

Le contre-amiral Page a ensuite occupé le poste de commandant de la Division de l'instruction des officiers à l'École du génie naval et d'officier du génie des systèmes de combat pour l'entraînement maritime (Atlantique). En 2004, il a été nommé directeur du projet au sein de l'organisation du Chef d'état-major de la Force maritime à Ottawa dans la cadre de la modernisation des frégates de la classe HALIFAX.

Un an plus tard, il a suivi le cours de commandement et d'état-major, et a obtenu une maîtrise en études de la défense au Collège des Forces canadiennes à Toronto.

Après deux ans à la Direction générale – Gestion du programme d'équipement maritime à titre de chef de section de l'acquisition et du soutien du matériel, il a été nommé commandant de l'École du génie naval des Forces canadiennes à Halifax en juin 2008. À la fin de cette affectation, il est retourné à Toronto pour suivre la formation du Programme de sécurité nationale au Collège des Forces canadiennes. Après avoir obtenu son diplôme en juin 2011, il a occupé le poste de directeur de l'instruction et de l'éducation maritimes, puis est redevenu chef d'état-major de GPEM (CEMGPEM).

En juillet 2015, après avoir été promu au grade de commodore, le contre-amiral a été affecté pendant trois ans comme DGGPEM. En 2018, il a été nommé chef d'état-major – Opérations au sein du Commandement du personnel militaire. De retour au Groupe des matériels à compter du 21 juin 2019, le contre-amiral a assumé les fonctions d'officier commandant le commandement et de sous-chef d'état-major (Matériels). Il est parti à la retraite en décembre 2019 après 35,5 années de service; en tant qu'employé civil, il a assumé les fonctions sous-ministre adjoint (Matériels) au ministère de la Défense nationale. Le 1er mars 2021, il s'est joint à Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada à titre de sous-ministre adjoint, Approvisionnement maritime et Défense.



Rear-Admiral (retired) Simon Page, OMM, CD – PSPC

Assistant Deputy Minister, Defence and Marine Procurement

Rear-Admiral Page enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1984 as a Maritime Engineer and graduated from RMC in 1989 with a Bachelor in Computer Engineering. On completion of his initial combat systems engineering training, he achieved his Head of Department qualification onboard HMCS NIPIGON in July 1992.

He then commenced a four-year tour within the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School as a combat system engineering instructor before joining HMCS ATHABASKAN as the Combat Systems Engineering Officer.

Rear-Admiral Page then worked as the Division Commander for the Officer Training Division of the Naval Engineering School and the Combat Systems Engineering Officer of Sea Training Atlantic. In 2004, he moved to the Chief of the Maritime Staff organization as a HALIFAX Class Modernization Project Director. One year later, he completed the Command and Staff Course and a Master in Defence Studies at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

After two years in the MEPM Division as the Materiel Acquisition and Support Section Head,

in June 2008, he was appointed Commandant of the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School in Halifax. On completion of this Command tour, he then returned to Toronto and completed the National Security Program at the Canadian Forces College. Upon graduation in June 2011, he assumed the duties and responsibilities of the Director Maritime Training and Education, which was followed by his return to DGMEPM as Chief of Staff.

In July 2015, after promotion to Commodore, he commenced a three-year tour as DGMEPM. In 2018, he was posted to the position of Chief of Staff Operations in the Military Personnel Command organization. On June 21, 2019, now back in the Materiel Group, RAdm Page assumed the duties of Officer Commanding the Command and Deputy Chief of Staff Materiel. After 35.5 years of service, Rear-Admiral Page retired in December 2019 and, as a civilian, assumed the duties of Associate Assistant Deputy Minister (Materiel) in the Department of National Defence. On March 1, 2021 he joined Public Services and Procurement Canada as Assistant Deputy Minister, Defence and Marine Procurement.



Stéphane Oehrli – Rheinmetall Canada

Président et chef de la direction

M. Stéphane Oehrli a été nommé président et chef de la direction de Rheinmetall Canada le 1er octobre 2017. Avant d’assumer son poste actuel, M. Oehrli était vice-président des ventes et de la gestion des programmes chez Rheinmetall Canada depuis octobre 2014. M. Oehrli s’est joint à Rheinmetall Canada en juin 2003 et a occupé divers postes de haute direction de plus en plus complexes au sein de l’entreprise. Il est diplômé de l’École de Gestion, d’Économie, de Droit, de Sciences Sociales et d’Affaires Internationales en Suisse avec une Maîtrise des Arts (M.A.HSG). Il est marié et a trois enfants. M. Oehrli parle couramment français, anglais et allemand.

President and CEO

Mr. Stéphane Oehrli was appointed President and CEO of Rheinmetall Canada on October 1st, 2017. Prior to his current role, Mr. Oehrli was Vice-President Sales and Program Management for Rheinmetall Canada since October 2014.

Mr. Oehrli has joined Rheinmetall Canada in June 2003 and has occupied a variety of increasingly complex senior management roles within the company. Prior to that, Mr. Oehrli worked for Deutsche Telekom’s T-Systems in Switzerland.

He graduated from the University of St. Gallen – School of Management, Economics, Law, Social Sciences and International Affairs in Switzerland with a Master of Arts (M.A.HSG). He is married and has three children.

Mr. Oehrli speaks fluently French, English, and German.



Suzanne Benoît – Aéro Montréal

Présidente-directrice Générale

Suzanne M. Benoît a été nommée présidente-directrice générale d'Aéro Montréal, la grappe aérospatiale du Québec, lors de sa création en août 2006. Aéro Montréal regroupe les premiers dirigeants du secteur aérospatial québécois et vise à optimiser la compétitivité, la croissance et le rayonnement de l'industrie à l'échelle mondiale.

Avant d'occuper ce poste, elle a agi à titre de présidente-directrice générale de Développement économique Longueuil (DEL), et ce depuis sa fondation en 2002. De 1999 à 2002, elle a dirigé l'équipe de Prospection des investissements étrangers à la direction des Amériques à Investissement Québec. De 1991 à 1999, elle a occupé différents postes de direction au sein d'Hydro-Québec dans le domaine des Relations gouvernementales et institutionnelles et du Développement industriel et économique à la vice-présidence Grandes entreprises.

À partir de 1979, elle a œuvré au sein de la fonction publique fédérale à Ottawa et ailleurs au Canada à titre de directrice adjointe aux Affaires internationales au ministère Industrie Canada où elle était responsable de la coopération industrielle Canada-Japon et Canada-Corée du Sud. Elle a également été directrice adjointe au Marketing des produits de la défense au

ministère des Affaires extérieures et du Commerce international.

En décembre 2014, le premier ministre du Canada a officiellement nommé Mme Benoît comme une des trois représentants du Canada au Conseil consultatif des gens d'affaires (ABAC) de l'Organisation de coopération économique d'Asie-Pacifique (APEC), un des forums régionaux les plus importants au monde.

Mme Benoît est très active dans le milieu du développement économique tant sur la scène nationale qu'internationale. Elle siège également sur de nombreux conseils d'administration, notamment au comité exécutif et au conseil d'administration du Projet mobilisateur de l'avion écologique (SA2GE), Sous-traitance industrielle Québec (STIQ), le Conseil Emploi Métropole, le Consortium de recherche et d'innovation en aérospatiale au Québec (CRIAQ), et le Comité sectoriel de la main-d'œuvre en aérospatiale (CAMAQ).

L'engagement communautaire de Mme Benoît se traduit également par la présidence d'honneur et la participation au sein d'instances d'organismes d'œuvres caritatives.

Mme Benoît a obtenu un baccalauréat et une maîtrise en administration des affaires (MBA) de l'Université d'Ottawa et, en 2014, elle a complété sa formation d'administrateur de sociétés à l'Université McGill dans le cadre du programme de l'IAS.



Suzanne Benoît – Aéro Montréal

Présidente and CEO

Suzanne M. Benoît was appointed President of Aéro Montréal, Québec's aerospace cluster, at its inception in August 2006. Aéro Montréal brings together major decision makers in Québec's aerospace sector and aims to optimize the competitiveness, growth and the influence of the industry around the world.

Prior to joining Aéro Montréal, she led the Longueuil Economic Development Agency (LED) as its President and CEO, from its creation in 2002. From 1999 to 2002, she led the foreign investment prospecting team in the Americas division of Investissement Québec. From 1991 to 1999, she held various management positions at Hydro-Québec in the areas of government and institutional relations and industrial and economic development in the utility's major industrial clients division.

Beginning in 1979, she worked in the federal civil service in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada as assistant director at International Affairs, Industry Canada, responsible for industrial cooperation between Canada and Japan and Canada and South Korea. She was

also an assistant director of Marketing-defence products at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

In December 2014, the Prime Minister of Canada officially appointed Ms. Benoît as one of three representatives to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, one of the most important regional forums in the world.

Ms. Benoît is very active in the field of economic development both at the national and international level. She also serves on many boards, namely the executive committee and board of directors of the greener aircraft catalyst project (SA2GE), Sous-traitance industrielle Québec (STIQ), the Conseil Emploi Métropole, the Consortium for Research and Innovation in Aerospace in Québec (CRIAQ), and the Comité sectoriel de la main-d'œuvre en aérospatiale (CAMAQ). Ms. Benoît's community involvement is also reflected by her honorary role and participation in charitable organizations.

Ms. Benoît holds a bachelor's degree and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Ottawa. In 2014, she completed corporate director training at McGill University as part of the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) program.



Peter Hanna – GDMS-C

Director, Center of Excellence RPAS

Mr. Peter Hanna has a Bachelor of Engineering (B. Eng.), a Master in Business Administration (MBA) & credentials in accounting (CPA, CMA).

He has more than 20 years of experience in Strategic Planning, Product Management, Business Development and Project/Program Management in the domains of aerospace, defence and manufacturing.

He lead many successful programs in avionics & mission development ranging from individual key products such as Flight Management System (FMS), Global Positioning System (GPS) to Integrated Systems (e.g. Cockpit & Mission Solutions) for Trainer Aircrafts and Helicopter Platforms.

He has Profit/Loss (P/L), Business Development and Sales experience with local and international experience and successfully building business in North America, Europe, Middle-East and Asia Specific

He held Strategic Planning & Business development positions in Bombardier, Business Development position at Collins Aerospace, P/L director of Helicopter & Mission Solutions at CMC Electronics and currently is leading the RPAS business in Quebec as the Director of the Center of Excellence at GDMS



Ugo Paniconi – L3 Harris MAS

Directeur Général

Ugo a été nommé directeur général de la division MAS de L3Harris technologies en août 2019. Cette division, située à Mirabel (Québec), compte plus de 1100 employés dans 12 sites à travers le Canada. En tant que chef de file canadien en matière d'intégration de soutien en service (SES), notre objectif premier est d'atteindre l'excellence d'exécution en fournissant des solutions intégrées et novatrices qui englobent la gamme complète des activités de SES.

Avant d'occuper le poste de directeur général, Ugo a été directeur du service Programmes pendant plus de 10 ans et compte plus de 30 ans de service au sein de l'entreprise. Ugo a dirigé la mise en place de solutions de SES efficaces pour une variété de flottes canadiennes, dont celles des CF-18, des CC150 Polaris, des hélicoptères maritimes CH-148 Cyclone et des avions de démonstration CT-114 Tutor, ainsi que pour le compte de clients internationaux exploitant des F/18.

Titulaire d'un diplôme en génie électrique de l'Université McGill, Ugo a commencé sa carrière en 1987 chez Honeywell Aerospace (Montréal), où il a mis en place des améliorations de productivité qui ont permis de réduire les coûts de soutien de cycle de vie relatifs à la réparation et révision de divers instruments d'aéronefs militaires et commerciaux et de systèmes électroniques pour les clients. Par la suite, Ugo s'est joint à Bombardier en 1989 à titre d'ingénieur de projet. Il était responsable de la planification et de l'exécution de divers projets de mise à niveau d'aéronefs, d'études techniques et d'enquêtes techniques sur les plateformes d'aéronefs militaires. Ugo croit fermement que la mise en place d'une communauté soudée de dirigeants dans l'ensemble de l'organisation et qui s'emploie chaque jour à promouvoir les valeurs fondamentales de L3Harris, soit l'intégrité, l'excellence et le respect, constitue un des principes essentiels pour assurer le succès continu.



Ugo Paniconi – L3 Harris MAS

General Manager

Ugo was appointed as the General Manager for the MAS Division of L3Harris Technologies in August 2019. Based in Mirabel (Quebec), MAS employs over 1,100 people at 12 sites across Canada. Our focus is to deliver execution excellence as Canada's leading In-Service Support (ISS) integrator providing innovative and integrated solutions that span the full spectrum of ISS.

Prior to Ugo's appointment as GM, Ugo was the Director of Programs for over 10 years and has been with the company for over 30 years. Ugo led the implementation of effective and efficient delivery of In-Service Support (ISS) solutions and services for a variety of fleets including Canada's CF-18, CC150 Polaris fleet, CH-148 Cyclone Maritime Helicopter, the CT-114 Tutor demonstration aircraft, and international F/18 customers.

Ugo obtained an Electrical Engineering degree at McGill University and started his career in 1987 with Honeywell Aerospace (Montreal) implementing productivity improvements for reducing customer life-cycle support costs for the repair and overhaul of various military and commercial aircraft instruments and electronic systems. Ugo later joined Bombardier in 1989 as Project Engineer responsible for the planning and execution of various aircraft upgrade projects, engineering studies and technical investigations on military aircraft platforms.

Ugo believes that building a strong community of leaders across the organization that strive each day in promoting L3Harris core values of integrity, excellence, and respect are key tenets for continued success.