Jeff J. Roncka: Managing Partner • Renaissance Strategic Partners

Jeffrey J. Roncka is a Managing Partner of Renaissance Strategic Advisors, a global strategy and transaction advisory firm focused on the aerospace, defense and government services industries. His 18 years of experience in these sectors spans both the public and private sectors, including positions in Federal Government, investment banking, management consulting, litigation support services and having served on the board of directors of a publicly traded aerospace supplier. His current advisory offerings center on helping executives understand their business environment, integrate the varied perspectives of key corporate, government and financial stakeholders, develop value creating repositioning and investment strategies and execute them. He specializes in strategy development and M&A planning and execution support. He previously spent eight years at Charles River Associates, where he led their Washington DC-based defense consulting team, and three years at Global Technology Partners (GTP). Before joining GTP, he spent five years in Government service in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Technology as a Presidential Management Fellow. He holds an A.B. Degree in Modern European History from Harvard College and a Master’s Degree in National Security Policy from The George Washington University.

Hal Chrisman: Vice President • ICF SH&E

Hal Chrisman brings to clients 27 years of aviation and aerospace industry experience split evenly between consulting and executive–level industry positions. He leads ICF SH&E’s Defense and Rotary Wing Practice. His functional focus has been strategic planning, process improvement, industrial marketing and due diligence. His experience has been focused on the defense industry, but spans all major market segments including commercial air transport and business and general aviation. Previously, Mr. Chrisman was Senior Vice President of Corporate Development for Pemco Aviation Group, Senior Vice President of Business Development for Aerospan, a spare parts eBusiness Joint Venture between AAR and SITA, Senior Director - Aerospace and Defense Solutions for Oracle Corporation, and a Principal with The Canaan Group, an aerospace consultancy. He holds a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree from Hanover College, a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Engineering from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

Bob Ruszkowski: Director • UCLASS Program Development • Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company

Bob Ruszkowski is the Director of the Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (UCLASS) Program Development for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. Prior to this, he was Senior Manager for Market Initiatives in Strategic Planning, where he developed strategies and recommendations for new products, technologies, services, and investments. Mr. Ruszkowski began his career in 1985 as an aircraft designer working on advanced programs. He worked on the Joint Strike Fighter design, and later, unmanned aircraft. He has been a Chief Engineer and a Program Manager on numerous aircraft projects. He also holds four US patents, including one for the system concept for the sub-launched and recovered MPUAV, and another for a combat-proven system concept, which ground forces and Special Operations Forces use to determine and transmit GPS target coordinates to Close Air Support (CAS) and bomber aircraft for attack. He has a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

Alan K. Baker: Airlift Business Development • Boeing

Alan K. Baker is an Airlift Business Development Representative for Boeing’s C-17 Program in Long Beach, California. In that capacity, he is responsible for marketing and sales for the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, and for the strategy that develops new mobility products to meet customer needs and ensure long-term airlift growth for the company. Before coming to Boeing, he completed a highly successful career in the United States Air Force where he held key jobs at the squadron, wing, major command and joint command levels. He was the Director of Staff at Headquarters Air Mobility Command and commanded the 634th Air Mobility Support Squadron at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California where he received his Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Business Administration. He has a Master’s of Science Degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas and is a graduate of the United States Air Force War College, Joint Forces Staff College, United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College, United States Air Force Command and Staff College, and United States Air Force Squadron Officer School.
Erica Leonard is the Development Program Manager for the F135 Engine Program. Ms. Leonard has responsibility for the overall execution of F135 Development activities. In this role, she works closely with the F135 Integrated Program Management Team and the Joint Program Office to meet program objectives. She has more than 18 years of successful leadership experience, 14 of those years at Pratt & Whitney. Previously, she led the F119 Production, Component Improvement, and Flight Test Programs for the F-22 Raptor as Program Manager. She also had increasing leadership roles in controls engineering. Prior to joining UTC, Ms. Leonard was a fuel controls engineer at Goodrich Corporation. She holds a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in mechanical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in business administration from the University of Connecticut.

Igor Pasternak is the Founder and CEO of Worldwide Aeros Corp., which has grown under his leadership to become a global destination for the design and manufacture of lighter-than-air (LTA) aircraft since its inception more than 25 years ago. Mr. Pasternak has extensive experience in program and project management, as well as in the R&D, design, system integration, manufacturing, testing and certification activities in the area of conventional airships, transport category hybrid airships, aerostats, and High Altitude Airships (HAA). As Aeros’ Chief Engineer he is the architect of the Aeroscraft, the world’s first rigid-hull, variable-buoyancy hybrid air vehicle with true vertical take-off and landing capability at maximum payload while operating without external ballast. Today, he is focused on implementing the Aeroscraft to globally expand military mobility capability, aid global commerce and commercial cargo logistics, reduce fuel consumption, and implement clean energy innovations.

Dr. Alan Berman is a Senior Manager at Monitor Deloitte. He focuses on innovation, competitive strategy and technology commercialization for aerospace and defense clients. He has done projects on various weapon systems across missile defense, space systems, destroyers, armored vehicles, and ISR aircraft. He has worked on technology commercialization and new business creation in areas such as alternative energy, nanotechnology, carbon fiber composites, and data communications. Prior to joining Monitor, Dr. Berman was Director of Technology at Zone Reactor, a technology commercialization company affiliated with Zone Ventures in Los Angeles. He holds a Ph. D. in Chemical Engineering from UC Santa Barbara, and an MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA.

Jon Barney oversees strategy, consulting, and M&A engagements for Avascent’s aerospace, defense, government services, and technology clients worldwide. His areas of focus have included international strategy expansion, innovation and adjacent market strategies, and growth through M&A. Prior to joining Avascent, he served as an Executive Director in Russell Reynolds Associates’ Aviation, Aerospace and Defense Practice. Previously, he held the position of Managing Director at Medley Global Advisors. After graduating with Honors in Political Science from the United States Naval Academy, he began his career as an officer in the U.S. Navy, where he served as a Presidential Military Assistant, an officer on a forward deployed destroyer, and a NATO fellow in Brussels, Belgium. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School.
Philip Finnegan: Director - Corporate Analysis • Teal Group

Philip Finnegan is the Director of Corporate Analysis at Teal Group. He has provided strategic and market analysis for clients in commercial aerospace and defense, including major U.S. and European prime contractors. He also writes and edits Teal’s Defense and Aerospace Companies Briefing, which analyzes the performance, outlook and strategies of 50 aerospace and defense companies in the United States, Europe, Asia and South America. He is a co-author of the annual World Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems with responsibility for UAV companies. He has a monthly industry column in Homeland Security Today. Frequently cited as an expert on defense and aerospace companies, his comments have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the International Herald Tribune, Forbes, Fortune and numerous other publications. He earned a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in modern European history from Carleton College, a Master’s of Arts Degree in Modern European history from Stanford University, and an Master’s of Arts Degree in economics from the American University in Washington.

Derrick Maple: Principal Analyst - Aerospace & Defense • IHS Aerospace, Defense & Maritime (AD&M)

Derrick Maple is Principal Analyst for IHS Aerospace, Defense & Maritime (AD&M) and is responsible for Air, Land and Sea-based Unmanned Systems Market Forecasts. He has been with IHS since 2008. Previously, he was with GE Aviation and before its acquisition by GE, Smiths Aerospace, as director of market analysis, strategy, and forecasting covering all civil and military businesses and markets. He was responsible for developing the centralized system for market forecasting and analysis, used globally by Smiths Aerospace operations. He also chaired and was a founding member of the European defense analyst group DeFMA and a founding member of the European civil aircraft analyst group FEAMA. Mr. Maple has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in mathematics from the University of Gloucestershire. He has written articles on the global unmanned systems markets for IHS Janes Defence Weekly, COTS Journal, IDS Infodefensa, CNNMoney and the Wall Street Journal and presentations for IHS include the AUVSI, UNVEX, SpeedNews and INFO 2013.

Trevor T. Bohn: Managing Director - Aerospace, Defense & Government Services • Salem Partners

Trevor T. Bohn has 15 years of investment banking advisory and capital raising experience continuously covering the Aerospace, Defense & Government Services sectors. He has advised clients on numerous mergers and acquisitions both in sell-side and buy-side advisor roles and has executed a broad range of equity and debt capital raising transactions. His experience includes transactions for public companies, privately held companies, private equity funds, and their portfolio companies. As head of the practice for Salem Partners, he is responsible for managing a team of dedicated industry bankers that provide a full range of investment banking advisory services to businesses within these sectors located in North America, Europe and the Middle East. He began his career with Banc of America Securities LLC as a member of their aerospace, defense and general industrial group located in Los Angeles, California. He received a Bachelor’s of Business Administration Degree in finance, investment and banking from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Robert Jones: SVP & Manager - National Aerospace & Defense Group • Union Bank

Robert Jones has over 20 years of experience in corporate and investment banking, with the past 15 years focused exclusively in Aerospace, Defense and Government Services. He leads the National Aerospace & Defense team at Union Bank, providing a broad range of financing and related banking services to mid-sized companies across the industry. In addition, he has significant experience working with private equity investors focused in this sector. Prior to joining Union Bank, he held similar roles at CIT Group, Wachovia Securities and CIBC World Markets. During his career, he has worked with a broad array of aerospace and defense companies, including most of the major prime contractors and OEMs, and many of their supply chain partners, here and abroad. His experience includes M&A advisory roles with public and private companies. In addition, he has extensive capital markets experience, having raised capital for his clients in the public equity, high yield, convertible, investment grade, and syndicated loan markets. He received a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in Administrative and Commercial Studies from the University of Western Ontario. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.
Christopher Cantwell: Managing Director - Transportation Lending • CIT

Christopher Cantwell is Managing Director and Group Head for CIT Transportation Lending. The group provides corporate finance services focusing on the aerospace, defense, homeland security, government services and rail markets. These services include senior and mezzanine loans, equipment loans and leases and advisory assignments. He has more than 25 years of experience in the aviation finance industry. He joined CIT in 2007 as Director, Structured Finance, responsible for structuring and selling asset-backed financings for the commercial aviation and aerospace markets with a focus on commercial air carriers, OEMs, MROs and the aerospace supply chain. He received his MBA in finance from the Stern School of Business at New York University and his Bachelor's Degree in History from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY.

Jake Blumenthal: Principal • Vance Street Capital

Jake Blumenthal is a Principal and founding member of Vance Street Capital LLC. Vance Street Capital is a Los Angeles-based private equity firm that makes control investments in companies with enterprise values up to $200 million. He serves on the board of Process Fab Inc., an engineering, design and manufacturing firm that provides airframe structures, flight hardware, ground support equipment and tooling to the aerospace industry. He was previously on the board of Klune Industries, Inc., which Vance Street sold to Precision Castparts Corp. (NYSE: PCP) last year. He was also very involved in Micross Components, a leading global provider of specialty electronics solutions for defense, space, medical and demanding industrial industries. Micross was sold to Insight Equity in 2012. Prior to joining Vance Street, he worked in New York City for nearly a decade in private equity and investment banking at Charterhouse Group and Deutsche Bank. He attended Washington and Lee University where he earned a BA in Economics.

Dana P. Dorsey: Chief Financial Officer • Wyle

Dana P. Dorsey, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Wyle Services, is responsible for Finance, M&A, and Information Technology. Prior to joining Wyle in February 2007, he was Vice President of Sensor Programs and Process Improvement at BAE Systems Integrated Systems business unit. Previously with BAE Systems, Mr. Dorsey spent two years serving as Director of M&A in the UK. He has worked in the Aerospace/Defense industry for over 25 years focused primarily in the finance, M&A and audit disciplines. He has an MBA from Claremont Graduate School and a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Accounting from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Richard Pedigo: Director - Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS) • AeroVironment

Richard (Rick) Pedigo is Director of AeroVironment’s Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems business, a world leader in the design and manufacture of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). He is responsible for all activities related to AeroVironment’s family of small UAS: Wasp AE, Raven and Puma AE, which account for 85% of the unmanned aircraft in the United States Department of Defense inventory. Prior to joining AeroVironment in 2005, he led product development teams in commercial and aerospace companies including, Answer Products, Rantec Microwave and Hughes Aircraft Company. He earned his MBA from Krannert School of Management at Purdue University, his Master’s Degree in Engineering from Loyola Marymount University and his Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University.
Speaker Biographies
SpeedNews 11th Annual Aerospace & Defense Industry Suppliers Conference

Kevin G. Moschetti: President - Esterline Communications Systems • Esterline

Kevin G. Moschetti is the President of Esterline Communication Systems, a division of Esterline Technologies. Esterline Communication Systems is a leading provider of innovative C4ISR products. He has served as President of Esterline Communication Systems since its formation in 2009. In that role, Kevin has worked to build an increased presence for Esterline in C4ISR, beginning with a single business and growing the portfolio through strategic acquisitions. Esterline Communication Systems’ product range includes signals intelligence receivers and sub-systems, multi-level secure intercommunication systems, and ruggedized noise cancelling headsets that enhance soldiers’ situational awareness. Mr. Moschetti has over 20 years of experience in Aerospace and Defense and has worked in both commercial aviation while at Boeing and in defense. He received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is just finishing an MBA from the University of Southern California.

Jim Gerwien: CEO • Extant Components Group

Jim Gerwien is the Chief Executive Officer for Extant Components Group, Inc. Mr. Gerwien has more than 29 years of aerospace industry experience in a wide variety of businesses and executive leadership roles. Prior to founding Extant, he was President of BBA Aviation’s Legacy Support Division with responsibility for the company’s Ontic Engineering and Manufacturing business unit, where he had previously served as President from 2002 to 2008. He began his aerospace career with General Electric in 1982 and held a number of executive leadership positions within the company. He later served as Business Unit Manager for Vickers Fluid Power, a division of Eaton Aerospace in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Gerwien holds a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BSME from the University of Connecticut.

Jay Wynn: Managing Director • Fairmont Consulting Group

Jay Wynn is the co-founder and Managing Director of Fairmont Consulting Group, a strategy and transaction advisory firm serving the aerospace, defense and government services sectors. Through Fairmont he has supported a variety of clients, ranging from small Tier 4 suppliers to multinational A&D prime contractors, and from search funds to multi-billion dollar financial services firms. Prior to founding Fairmont he was a Managing Director with CSP Associates, a boutique A&D management consulting firm. He was previously with Bain & Company in their private equity group, supporting due diligence engagements across a range of industries. During the 1990’s Mr. Wynn served as a Senior Consultant with the Gartner Group, focusing on strategy and market analysis in IT and telecommunications. He received an MBA from MIT’s Sloan School of Management and an Master’s in Science, Technology and Public Policy from George Washington University where he studied under a NASA fellowship. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech, where he was a President’s Scholar.

Dr. W. Alexander Vacca: Corporate Director - Business Assessment • Northrop Grumman

William Alexander Vacca, Ph.D., is Corporate Director, Business Assessment, at Northrop Grumman’s headquarters, located in Falls Church, Virginia. He is responsible for assessing and forecasting the broader strategic, financial, and technological trends affecting the global defense industry and evaluating options for Northrop Grumman’s strategic trajectory. He joined Northrop Grumman in 2001 as an analyst in the strategic planning staff at the Electronic Systems Sector, and held positions of increasing responsibility in the Electronics and Space Technologies sectors before being asked to join the Corporate Office. He serves as lead for the TechAmerica Defense Industry Outlook team. He received his Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in Political Science from Miami University of Ohio, his Master’s of Arts Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Kentucky. He also holds a Ph.D. in the Political Science at Rutgers University.
Joanna Speed: Managing Director - Conferences • SpeedNews

In 1979 Gilbert and Ann Speed launched SpeedNews, the aviation industry's most innovative newsletter. In 1994 their daughter Joanna Speed joined the company putting to use her degree from Cal Poly State University San Luis Obispo and her acumen for business and marketing. While beginning her informal education in commercial aviation with Publisher Gil Speed, she studied business in the Pepperdine University graduate program. Over the years, Ms. Speed streamlined the company to increase revenue and reduce costs, led the effort toward online distribution and created new marketing programs for large corporate subscribers. When SpeedNews Conferences emerged as influential forecasting and intelligence forums, she refined and expanded marketing strategies for the Aviation Suppliers Conferences. As Managing Director, she has introduced and launched two new Conferences in the SpeedNews portfolio. In 2011, she started the Aerospace Raw Materials & Manufacturers Supply Chain Conference, which runs in conjunction with the Annual Commercial Aviation Suppliers Conference. In 2013, the SpeedNews Aerospace Manufacturing Conference was added. SpeedNews has been part of Penton's Aviation Media Group since 2006.

Kathleen M. Ellis: VP - Mergers & Acquisitions • BAE Systems

Kathleen M. (Kathy) Ellis is the Vice President of Mergers & Acquisitions for BAE Systems, Inc., which is the U.S.-based segment of the global business with approximately 43,000 employees in the United States, United Kingdom, Sweden, Israel, Mexico and South Africa, and 2011 revenues of approximately $14.4 billion. In her role, she has responsibility for mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, and leads the development and execution of strategies and initiatives to promote growth through acquisition for the U.S.-based sectors. During her 30-year career in the defense industry, she has held a variety of positions in engineering, finance, program management and business development at a time when the defense sector was experiencing significant consolidation. Ms. Ellis joined the BAE Systems, Inc. headquarters team in 2004 as the Director of Internal Audit, overseeing and managing the audit department within the U.S. In 2008, she transitioned to the Merger & Acquisition team at a director level, and she was promoted to her current role as VP in 2011. She received her Bachelor's Degree in physics from Fairfield University, her Master's Degree in physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and her MBA from State University New York (SUNY) Binghamton.

Gerald M. Haines: SVP - Corporate Development • Mercury Systems

Gerald M. Haines is responsible for Mercury’s corporate development activities, including mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and related corporate strategy development and execution. He also oversees the company’s Security, Trade Compliance, Contracts and Legal functions, and serves as the company’s corporate Secretary. He has significant experience in M&A, corporate finance, strategy development and implementation, investor relations, IPOs and spinoffs, intellectual property management, corporate and business development, corporate governance, public company compliance, and all types of corporate and commercial negotiations and agreements. Mr. Haines served as Executive Vice President of Strategic Affairs of Enterasys Networks, Inc., a publicly traded network communications company, and Senior Vice President of Cabletron Systems, Inc., the predecessor of Enterasys Networks. Before that he was Vice President and General Counsel at Applied Extrusion Technologies, North America’s largest developer and manufacturer of polypropylene packaging films. He began his career at J.P. Morgan. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in business administration, magna cum laude, from Boston University, and a Law Degree from Cornell Law School.