7th Annual INCOSE Great Lakes Regional Conference

Leadership Through Systems Engineering

Aerospace | Commercial | Defense | Health Care | Manufacturing | Academia

Don Burns

Don began his career at Allison, now Rolls Royce, after graduation from Purdue (BSME 1970). His experience foundation in Gas Turbines is in the area of Dynamics with particular emphasis in aeroelasticity. He has held positions as Chief of Dynamics, Engineering Director of Transmissions and Structures, Engineering Director of Combustion, Engineering Director of Propulsion and Power Systems and presently as Head of Innovative Systems Engineering.



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For the last eight years Don has led the Propulsion and Power Systems core engineering team and as of July 2013 the Innovative Systems engineering team. He was instrumental in organizing core engineering in Rolls-Royce around the five Systems Engineering functions: Design Systems, Functional Systems, Program Systems, Service Systems and Verification Systems engineering, which span the System engineering 'V' product development and recognize the importance of cross discipline interaction while maintaining development of in depth expertise in each area. He has promoted application of System engineering discipline and innovation thinking at different levels of the organization, including the aspect of business awareness within the engineering team relating our work to the competitive environment. He is currently the Rolls Royce Executive for Georgia Tech and the University of Illinois supporting the development of analytical tools and methods for system optimization at multiple levels of fidelity while at the same time supporting the development system engineers for the future. He is currently focused on improving the capability and application of System Engineering discipline in defining and executing programs while leading the movement of the company beyond gas turbines to management of electrical, thermal and propulsive power on the platform.

Don holds a bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University and is a Senior Member of IEEE.

