



**Peter Nicholas Lengyel**  
**President & CEO, Safran USA**



As President and CEO, Safran USA, Mr. Lengyel is responsible for execution of Safran's strategic vision among the Safran companies and joint ventures operating in the United States.

He was previously the Vice President for Business Development for Safran USA, and in this role coordinated Group approaches across Safran's aerospace, defense, and security markets in the U.S.

Prior to joining Safran, Mr. Lengyel was a career naval officer, and last served as the naval attaché for defense security cooperation at the American Embassy in Paris, France. As the Director of Naval Affairs, he served as a liaison between government, defense, and private sector leaders to increase interoperability of U.S. and French defense and national security systems.

A 1984 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Mr. Lengyel qualified as a tactical coordinator, mission commander, and instructor in the P-3C aircraft and attained over 3,500 flight hours. He also served as an exchange officer with the Royal Netherlands Navy, a Tactical Action Officer on board the USS America (CV-66), and the commanding officer of Navy Recruiting District, Michigan. During NATO combat operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, he was the Director of the Tactical Support Center and NATO Maritime Patrol Air (MPA) Task Group Commander, based in Sigonella, Sicily. In the course of his career, he participated in Cold War antisubmarine operations throughout the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic, North and Mediterranean Seas, as well as naval operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Somalia, and Haiti. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.

Mr. Lengyel is a graduate of the Naval War College, where he earned a master's degree in national security and strategic studies, the Defense Language Institute (Dutch and French studies), Ecole Militaire's *Centre des Hautes Études de l'Armement* (Center for Advanced Armament Studies), and the Safran Executive MBA program through Duke University and HEC Paris. Mr. Lengyel also serves on several Safran company boards and the U.S. Naval Academy's Board of Trustees (Athletic & Scholarship Programs).

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Cara Boulesteix  
Commercial Specialist  
U.S. Commercial Service Paris, France

Cara Boulesteix is based in the U.S. Commercial Service office in Paris, France where she manages a team of international commercial specialists covering a range of industrial products. Her personal sector portfolio includes the aerospace, defense, and security industries. She is a permanent member of the non-diplomatic Embassy staff.

After working in both national and international sales in the States, she moved to France, joining the U.S. subsidiary of an American consulting firm to do business and new office development. Since joining the U.S. Commercial Service, she has covered a wide range of industry portfolios for the French office.

In 2008 she was invited to attend France's prestigious Center of Advanced Studies for Armaments, or French War College, as part of a fellowship exchange with the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF). She also holds degrees in political science and in French from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She is married to Max Boulesteix and has two children.



## **PJ Menner – U.S. Embassy London**

Paul (PJ) Menner has been a Commercial Specialist for the defense, aerospace and marine technology sectors at the U.S. Embassy, London since July 2013. He graduated from Miami University, Ohio in 1988 with a BA in Political Science. After graduation, he was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy and qualified as a naval aviator. He spent 10 years on active duty as a helicopter pilot, during which time he participated in Operation Desert Storm and numerous other operations. He served as a Detachment Officer-in-Charge and qualified as a Combat Information Center Watch Officer. He flew over 2,000 hours and was a maintenance test pilot, standardization pilot and flight instructor.

After leaving active service in 1998, PJ Menner continued to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve and qualified as a commercial airline pilot, accruing in excess of 4,000 flying hours on numerous different types of multi-engine passenger aircraft for Skywest Airlines, Continental Airlines and United Airlines.

While serving in the U.S. Navy Reserve between 2002 and 2003, PJ Menner was the Joint Operations Center Executive Officer at the U.S. European Command. In 2005 he served as the U.S. Naval Forces Europe director of the Navy Maritime Partnership Program. In 2008 he served as the Assistant Naval Programs Officer in the Office of Defense Cooperation, London. In September 2008 he also deployed with the U.S. European Command to Tbilisi, Georgia and served as the Plans and Policy Officer to assess the capability of the Georgian armed forces.

Between October 2009 and June 2013 PJ Menner worked for the Defense Contract Management Agency, Northern Europe, as a management and program analyst. PJ Menner's numerous awards and honors include three Joint Service Commendation Medals, the Naval Commendation Medal, and three Naval Achievement Medals.

PJ Menner retired from the U.S. Navy as a Commander in 2014, he is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and he lives in London with his wife and son.



Dr. John M. Sankovic, named president and CEO of Ohio Aerospace Institute. As OAI's new leader, Dr. Sankovic will prioritize developing multi-university partnerships, driving research from university laboratories to Ohio's industrial aerospace manufacturers and fostering novel collaborations between governments, industries and private organizations.

"As a native Ohioan, I'm excited to build on Ohio's rich history as the birthplace of aviation and the home of so many astronauts," said Sankovic. "I truly believe that by building partnerships across the deep resources within the state, Ohio can lead the effort of ensuring U.S. economic competitiveness of the aerospace sector."

Dr. Sankovic comes to OAI following a distinguished 31-year career at NASA, where he most recently served as center chief technologist and director of the Office of Technology Incubation and Innovation. There, he received numerous awards, including the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, six Agency Honor Group Achievement Awards and an R&D100 technology innovation award.

An industrious academic, Dr. Sankovic earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from The University of Akron, his MBA degree from Cleveland State University and his master's and doctorate degrees in biomedical engineering from Case Western Reserve University. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Ohio with distinction by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers for highest achievement on both licensure examinations. He holds three U.S. patents.

Inclined to share his knowledge and passion with future generations of innovators, Dr. Sankovic has taught numerous university courses over the past 15 years and authored or co-authored more than 70 technical publications on topics ranging from space propulsion and power to fluid mechanics and biomedical sciences. Board Chairman Dennis Irwin expressed confidence in Dr. Sankovic's transition to president and CEO. "Jeff made great strides in astutely building relationships with our historical constituent base—he was truly transformational," said Irwin. "John is Ohio's shining star in aerospace. With his special combination of intellect, leadership and management skills, he is uniquely qualified to continue and realize the transformation in OAI that Jeff Rolf so ably began."

#### **About OAI**

OAI enhances its partners' aerospace competitiveness through research and technology development, workforce preparedness, and engagement with global networks for innovation and advocacy. Please visit [www.oai.org](http://www.oai.org).



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WSRI, CEO, WSARC  
CEO, President of WSARC**

Mr. Andersh connects the university's research to new markets, while also leveraging the Institute's existing commercial and healthcare business. Mr. Andersh was named Chief Executive Officer of the Wright State Applied Research Corporation in May 2014. In September 2015 Mr. Andersh was also named Executive Director of WSRI. With more than 20 years of documented leadership, management, and technical innovative successes, Mr. Andersh's expertise lies in basic research; laboratory research and development (R&D); system concept development; system and platform development; and the fielding of air, ground, and space mission-critical systems. He is highly respected for building collaborative partnerships of academia, industry, government, commercial, congressional, and local entities to create strategic growth across multiple new markets in the federal, state, and local government. Before coming to Wright State, Mr. Andersh held several leadership positions at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). He led the Dayton region as Senior Vice President where he was responsible for SAIC's business with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), Springfield Air National Guard, and the Dayton region.

**GINA REBELO BENTO**  
**Commercial Specialist**



Gina Bento has been with the U.S. Commercial Service since 2008. She covers the space, aerospace and textiles sectors Canada-wide, and the financial services, defense, safety and security sectors for Quebec.

She began her career in public service by working for the Canadian Parliament as a House of Commons Page. From 2002-2004, she assisted the Director of the New York State's Economic Development Agency's office in Montreal, where she worked with some of Canada's largest companies in helping them with their expansion plans into the U.S. Prior to joining the U.S. Commercial Service in 2008, she was the Director of Public Relations and Marketing for the Canadian International Council (similar to Council on Foreign Relations) in Montreal, where she organized multiple high-level events for the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Germany's Ambassador to the United Nations, and leading executives of global conglomerates including TATA.

Gina has led and pioneered numerous programs for CS Canada. She was the SCO's right-hand in implementing SelectUSA across Canada. She organized GM's first financial services CTM that has since become an annual event in Montreal, Toronto and around the world. She also organizes the largest U.S. aerospace trade delegation to Canada, where over 100 U.S. delegates attend annual aerospace shows in Montreal. Gina has been at the forefront of organizing many VIP visits for the Consulate in Montreal, as well as facilitating meetings for Secretary Wilbur Ross and Global Markets DG with leading Canadian companies. She regularly uses her vast network across Canada to serve the Mission's interests and works on an interagency basis on aerospace, space and defense issues, including NASA's latest win in securing Canada's support for the President's Lunar Gateway program.

Ms. Bento received a First Class Honors Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from McGill University. She is fluent in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, with knowledge of Hebrew, Italian and Arabic. Ms. Bento is from Springfield, Massachusetts and Montreal, Canada – her family is of Canadian and American origins.

## **Kimberly Wells**

Kim Wells was named the Aerospace Team Leader in November 2015, and manages a team of five international trade specialists and aerospace industry experts in the development of trade policy and promotion programs. Ms. Wells has held the positions of international economist and international trade specialist with the U.S. Department of Commerce since 1992. In these roles, Ms. Wells has worked closely with U.S. and foreign companies to strengthen international trade activities, increase jobs and improve U.S. competitiveness. In addition to her team leader responsibilities, she is the industry analyst for the commercial space sector, aerospace exports to the Middle East and North Africa, and is responsible for research and analysis of the international markets for communications and remote sensing satellites, launch vehicles, and missiles. Ms. Wells joined the Department's Aerospace Team in 1994 after serving 2 years in the Department's Trade Information Center.

In 2008-2009, Ms. Wells held a detail assignment to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where she advised the Deputy Under Secretary on satellite policy issues. In this role, she worked closely with NOAA's program offices to ensure that NOAA's satellite programs were consistent with U.S. and international policies.

Ms. Wells has been one of the Commerce Department's co-leads to the White House's Space Policy Reviews and has served as the Commerce representative at the U.S.-Russia, U.S.-China, and U.S.-Ukraine Commercial Launch Services Trade Agreement negotiations. In addition to organizing various aerospace-focused trade missions, she closely coordinates activities between U.S. and European firms at major aerospace and defense shows, including the Farnborough and Paris Air Shows, where her office manages the USA National Pavilions.

In January 2012, Ms. Wells received her SES Certificate of Executive Qualifications. Ms. Wells holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in international relations and political science from Miami University (Ohio) and a Master of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University. Following graduate school, Ms. Wells joined the Department of Commerce as a Presidential Management Fellow. She provided business, trade policy, and export counseling on U.S. Government export assistance programs at the Department's Trade Information Center.