**Topic: Our Responsibility to Innovate**

Brief description: There is a natural tension between using tried and true methods versus moving to breakthrough innovative technology.  Our best intentions may drive us to choose one of these choices when a project is high risk, fast paced, and/or constrained on cost. But is it the right choice?

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**Chester N. Kennedy**

Chester N. Kennedy retired in July 2015 as Vice President and Chief Engineer of Training and Logistics Solutions at Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training. In this role he led 2,000 engineers responsible for developing a wide variety of products, including support equipment, flight and ground simulators, training curriculums, automated test equipment and some of the most sophisticated Information Technology based logistics solutions in the world.

Mr. Kennedy has more than 30 years of experience in the aerospace and commercial electronics industries. During his tenure at Lockheed Martin, he held a number of leadership roles spanning functions such as engineering, program management and business development. His experience includes a rotation at the corporation’s headquarters where he was responsible for corporate-wide technology strategies and independent assessments of operational risks. During his career with Lockheed Martin, he has worked every phase of program life cycle from concept development thru mature product sustainment.

Mr. Kennedy holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration. He is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics Astronautics and is the Martin Federal Credit Union’s Board of Directors Vice Chairman. Mr. Kennedy is an outspoken supporter of STEM outreach and is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Orlando Aero Club and serves on numerous community and professional committees.