

Candidate for AIAA President-Elect

Dr. George C. Nield (AIAA Fellow)



SUMMARY OF GOALS

Advance the aerospace profession, engage and support our members, educate the general public, and inspire the next generation.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Since that historic achievement, we have seen some amazing developments in technology, from iPhones and Uber to drones and self-driving cars -- even the ability to do your grocery shopping on the Internet. In the aerospace arena, we find ourselves in the midst of a major transformation, from a time in which governments were responsible for almost everything that happened in space, to a time in which private industry is playing an increasingly important role.

Over the years, AIAA has developed an outstanding reputation for technical excellence. Going forward, I'd like to see us continue to enhance our technical capabilities, while working to become more innovative, more agile, and more responsive, both to the needs of our members, and to changes in the world around us. Some specific initiatives could include:

- Sponsoring or administering a major aerospace prize,
- Establishing a spaceflight training education program to provide unique opportunities for interested STEM teachers, and
- Developing new partnerships and strengthening our existing relationships in the international community.

If you have other ideas, I'd love to hear them. AIAA is currently facing some major challenges, but there are also many exciting opportunities. Let's see what we can do together!

BIOGRAPHY

Currently serve as the President of Commercial Space Technologies, LLC, which was founded to encourage, facilitate, and promote commercial space activities. As the FAA's Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation from 2008-2018, was responsible for licensing and regulating all commercial launch activities. Prior to joining the FAA, served as Senior Scientist for the Advanced Programs Group at the Orbital Sciences Corporation. Previous assignments included working as an Astronautical Engineer at the Space and Missile Systems Organization, a Flight Test Engineer at the Air Force Flight Test Center, and an Assistant Professor and Research Director at the USAF Academy. Served as the Manager of the Flight Integration Office for the Space Shuttle Program at the NASA Johnson Space Center, and later worked on both the Shuttle/Mir Program and the International Space Station Program. Received a B.S. in Engineering Science from the USAF Academy, an M.S. and Ph.D. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University, and an MBA from George Washington University.

AIAA ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

Active member of AIAA for more than 45 years, including 12 years as an AIAA Fellow. Completed two terms on the AIAA Board of Directors as Director-Technical, Space & Missiles Group. Past member of the Atmospheric Flight Mechanics Technical Committee. Served two terms as Chairman of the AIAA Houston Section (winning the Outstanding Section Award both times). Received the AIAA Public Service Award (2018), the AIAA Sustained Service Award (2003), and the AIAA Special Service Citation (1996).

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

Flight Test Engineering Graduate, USAF Test Pilot School. Commercial Instrument Pilot, with ratings for single and multi-engine airplanes and gliders. Elected Member, International Academy of Astronautics. Registered Professional Engineer (Colorado). Member, Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel. Space Transportation Association Leadership Award (2018). NASA Superior Achievement Award (1985). Air Force Flight Test Center Outstanding Officer of the Year (1977).