



Debra D. Facktor

Vice President and General Manager, Strategic Operations and Commercial Aerospace Business
Ball Aerospace

Debra D. Facktor is the vice president and general manager of Strategic Operations and of the Commercial Aerospace business for Ball Aerospace. As the leader of Strategic Operations, Facktor is responsible for increasing Ball Aerospace's profile in the market and facilitating collaboration across the company. She is the company's senior executive in the Washington, DC area and runs Washington Operations, Marketing & Communications and Strategic Development.

As the leader of Ball Aerospace's Commercial Aerospace strategic business unit, Facktor is responsible for developing and executing new business strategies across the company, and pursuing and performing commercial work in the areas of traditional space, integrated solutions and transformational communications for airborne and space platforms and data analytics.

Facktor brings over 25 years of experience in the aerospace industry to her current roles. Prior to joining Ball in January 2013, she served as the president of DFL Space LLC, an aerospace consulting firm focused on developing innovative business strategies for a wide range of clients. As an industry professor at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, she led its Master's of Engineering in Technical Leadership program and served as Director of Strategic Programs for the Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC). She was Principal Investigator on the SERC research project "Expedited Systems Engineering for Rapid Capability and Urgent Needs," sponsored by the U.S. Air Force, and has used this research toward Ph.D. studies.

Facktor has extensive business experience including serving as president and an owner of AirLaunch LLC, a small business which won funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the U.S. Air Force to develop an operationally responsive small launch vehicle. She previously served as vice president of Business Development and Strategic Planning for Kistler Aerospace Corporation. Earlier in her career, she was chief of Moscow Operations for ANSER's Center for International Aerospace Cooperation.

Among other distinctions, Facktor was honored with the University of Michigan 2014 Alumni Merit Award for Aerospace Engineering and as the Women in Aerospace (WIA) “Most Outstanding Member” for 2012. She is the former chair of the board of WIA and founding president of the WIA Foundation. Facktor serves on the board of the American Astronautical Society (AAS), the Future Space Leaders Foundation, and the industry advisory boards of the University of Michigan Aerospace Engineering Department and the Johns Hopkins University Space Systems Engineering program. She is also an appointed member of the FAA’s Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC). Facktor is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), a fellow of the AAS and an Academician of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). She holds both a Bachelor and Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan, and is an alumna of the International Space University summer session program in space policy and law.