



ACM

Aerospace Components
Manufacturers

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ACM UPDATE

June 30, 2021

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Aerospace Components Manufacturers, Inc.

The World's *Aerospace Alley!*[®]

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The ACM Board of Directors Proudly Announces Jessica Taylor as its New Executive Director



Jessica Taylor

years of progressively more significant management responsibilities.

Jessica, a resident of Southwick, Mass., is a graduate of Westfield State College where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

"It is exciting to be part of an organization where competitors often join to provide the best solution for manufacture of individual components or assemblies," **Taylor** said.

"From my experience with the ACM and serving on the ACM board, I have seen firsthand that the ACM slogan, Aerospace Alley![®], really is more than a slogan. It is reality," **Taylor** said. "There is no other location with such a concentration of aerospace subcontractors."

"I look forward to continuing to expand ACM education and training programs as well as increasing member visibility among ACM member customers -- aircraft and engine manufactures around the globe," she said.

Jessica M. Taylor, a veteran Connecticut manufacturing executive, has been named Executive Director of the Aerospace Components Manufacturers.

Effective July 6, 2021, **Taylor** assumes leadership of ACM upon the retirement of **Paul Murphy**.

"**Jessica** is no stranger to our organization or the aerospace and defense industry," **Murphy** said. She has been the Sales and Marketing Manager at Windsor-based **Aero Gear, Inc.** since 2018 and has been a member of the ACM Board of Directors for three years.

Prior to joining **Aero Gear**, **Taylor** was a General Manager at **PTI Industries** where she had 12

“As the pandemic gets more under control and the demand for aircraft increases, I am confident that the ACM member companies will be ready to fulfill that demand” **Taylor** added.

Please join me, along with the ACM Board of Directors, in welcoming **Jessica** into her new role as ACM Executive Director. **Jessica** may be reached by email at jtaylor@acm-ct.org or by phone at 860-282-4239.

Business Development

The **Business Development Team** hosted a Zoom meeting on June 15th with 41 members attending.

After opening statements Paul Murphy introduced new ACM Member **Titanium Processing Center, Inc.** **Andy Hunt**, Regional Sales Manager, provided the membership with an overview of his company. Titanium Processing Center (TPC) is a fully-stocked woman-owned distributor specializing in [titanium products](#). Our knowledgeable staff has decades of collective experience in providing the advice, [products](#), and [services](#) you need. This knowledge base also includes the expertise to meet your delivery requirements with on time shipping. Most in-stock items can ship same day / next day; and products requiring cutting, machining, or other value added services typically ship within 24 hours.

With the addition of our Manufacturing division, the Titanium Processing Center also provides its customers with world class designed, fabricated and machined products, making the Titanium Processing Center the most complete metal source in the industry. We welcome Andy and the **Titanium Processing Center, Inc.** team into the ACM.

The group then discussed tradeshows that members have attended as well as discussing ones of interest in the near term. Of note, many members expressed interest in attending The Vermont Chamber Manufacturing Summit being held virtually in September and that those that have attended some of the BCI events found them to be beneficial.

Industry News / Meetings / Tradeshows:

Feedback: Many tradeshows are now being offered both virtually and in-person.

Upcoming Industry Meetings:

- Military Additive Manufacturing Summit July 27 – 28, 2021 Tampa, Florida [Click Here for More Info](#)
- Vermont Chamber Manufacturing Summit Sept 9, 2021 Virtual [Click Here for More Info](#)
- Aero Engines Europe Sept 15 – 16, 2021 Stavanger, Norway- Hybrid [Click Here for More Info](#)
- AUSA Annual Meeting – Exposition Oct 11 – 13, 2021 Washington DC [Click Here for More Info](#)
- Aerospace Special Processes Suppliers summit Oct 12 – 14, 2021 St Louis, Missouri [Click Here for More Info](#)
- AeroMart Montreal Oct 26 – 28, 2021 Montreal, Canada [Click Here for More Info](#)
- Avalon Airshow Nov 30 – Dec 5 Victoria, Australia [Click Here for More Info](#)
- Aviation Forum Dec 7 – 8, 2021 Hamburg Germany – Hybrid [Click Here for More Info](#)
- Multiple events being organized by BCI (HOME PAGE CLICK EVENTS TAB) everything from Aerospace to Automotive to MRO etc. [Click Here for More Info](#)

We look forward to members attending to provide feedback on these events.

If you know of other shows and events that may be of interest to our membership, please forward to pmurphy@acm-ct.org

Materials Procurement Update

Material Resources Planning Team: A collaboration among service center ACM member companies to report on factors influencing pricing, trends, availability & lead times for raw materials used in aerospace manufacturing.

THE SMALLIDGE REPORT:

Many of our raw material suppliers provided an in-depth look at the current and future material markets. Noted were supply chain constraints and that the ATI strike was still affecting the market. Prices seem to be stabilizing and availability for “standard” items seem to be getting better. However, the market as a whole is still sensitive and concerning. Members spoke about trying to lock-in price and deliveries now to minimize disruptions.

ACM Updates:

Paul Murphy updated the membership on the **November 10th Future WorkForce Opportunities Fair and Aerospace Alley!® Tradeshow**. Paul noted that Save the Date notices were delivered to over 400 schools and that the process for the **IN-PERSON** event is well underway. Of note, the ACM is seeking state funding to help support the event and that with the success of the 2019 event in bringing in over 1200 students (past figures have been 450-600 students) that the funding, along with **CCAT’s** collaboration, was the major factor in the events success. Keynote Speaker(s) as being discussed as well as format for B2B’s.

Paul then advised members that MIF funding for training classes have concluded and that the ACM is applying for additional funding for training classes starting in September.

Paul also noted that CCAT is administering many programs to enhance competitiveness, upskilling and technology demos and workshops- many noted in this newsletter.

Paul noted that the trademark infringement to **ACM’s Aerospace Alley!® Trademark** seems to be resolved as the infringing organization has taken down their Colorado Aerospace Alley website as a result of our legal action to protect our registered trademark.

Lastly, **Paul** noted that **all future ACM Meetings will be IN-PERSON Meetings going forward**. We request that non-vaccinated attendees wear a face mask.

Roundtable Discussion:

As customary, only highlights will be shared as the discussions are sensitive.

Members spoke to their workforce needs and that they are bringing employees who have been working remotely back to the office and recalling some who had been laid-off or on furlough/time share. Many noted that they have seen an uptick in business and that schedules seem to be leveling. Many expressed that the supply chain is still fragile and that finding experienced people has been challenging.

Future Business Development Meetings:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday July 13th at CCAT 222 Pitkin Street, East Hartford starting at 8:00am. Please park on the right side or back parking lot and then proceed to enter in the front of the building. Coffee and Bagels will be back as well as some much welcomed networking!!!

Future Business Development meetings: In-person from 8:00 to 9:30 CCAT 222 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT. Meeting schedule: August 10, September 14, October 12, December 14. No November meeting as we have the ACM Aerospace Alley!® TradeShow.

Workforce Development

The Workforce Development Team last meet on February 24th. During that meeting we spoke to new training needs. Unfortunately, funding most likely won't be available until the August – September timeframe prior to the release of new funding for fiscal 2022, which commences in July.

The ACM is looking to conduct another round of CMMC workshops as the 1st engagement proved extremely valuable to the 17 ACM members who participated. The ACM would also look to offer some of the traditional classes such as GD&T, Lean, Frontline Supervisor Training and B/P Reading to name a few.

And remember, you may request specialized training for your business, so please let Jessica Taylor know what you have for training needs so she can get those into funding proposals for your business and training needs.

The ACM Class Syllabus may be found on ACM website under About ACM/ACM Course syllabus or you can [Click Here](#).

Please note that the catalog is not all-inclusive as training needs/class may be added. Paul noted that many business specific training can be approved for grants. Therefore, if you have specific training needs let Jessica know.

If you have training needs, please contact **Jessica Taylor** jtaylor@acm-ct.org as we are planning new classes for our fall sessions.

The next Workforce Team meeting will be scheduled once funding is known. Stay tuned for date, agenda, and links.

Progressive Manufacturing

The **Progressive Manufacturing Team** lead by **Eric Schneider, Birken Manufacturing**, has been very active scheduling and holding technical seminars. Many thanks to **Eric & John Kornegay** for all their efforts, it is greatly appreciated.

The **Progressive Manufacturing Team** conducted a planning meeting on June 17th and as a result the next **Progressive Manufacturing Team Meeting** will be **IN-PERSON** on **Thursday July 15th** at **CCAT's New Advanced Technology Center (ATC)** located on the Pratt & Whitney Complex located at 409 Silver Lane East Hartford, CT 06118 from 8:00am to 10:00am. Attendees will have a tour of the totally renovated ATC and learn of the vast capabilities that exist at CAAT for your business needs. Attendees will meet the ATC Team and demo's on the latest technologies will be presented.

You do not want to miss out on this event. Please SAVE THE DATE and more info along with agenda will be sent out in advance.

Future **Progressive Manufacturing Team meetings**: July 15th. CCAT's Advanced Technology Center (ATC) located on the Pratt & Whitney Complex located at 409 Silver Lane East Hartford, CT 06118 from 8:00am to 10:00am.

Please save the 3rd Thursday of the month for the meetings; more information will be distributed.

If you have suggestions for meeting topics or technical seminars, please reach out to **Jessica Taylor** at jtaylor@acm-ct.org.

Upcoming Technology Events of Interest

Below are some events, webinars, seminars, and workshops that you mind find of value for your employees and business. Many are funded by state and federal grants.

[Additive Manufacturing /3D Printing using Plastics - An overview of the technology choices and how to choose the best for your application.](#)

Thu. July 15th 12–1 pm CCAT – Jeff Crandall and Henry Babiec

[Optimize Design Process of Fixtures for Polymer Printing](#)

July 22nd @ 12-1pm **(In Person Training)**

CCAT – Kristi Oki and Sam Greenbank

[Tour Your Advanced Technology Center - In Person!](#)

Weds. August 4 @ 3:00 – 4:00pm

CCAT – Jeff Crandall **(In-person at ATC)**

[NERDIC \(New England Regional Defense Industry Collaboration – Summer Technology Demonstrations](#)

[NERDIC Industry 4.0 Readiness Ecosystem: Technology Demonstration on Machine Tool Probing for Industry 4.0](#)

Tues. July 13th 12–1 pm

CCAT & Renishaw

[NERDIC Industry 4.0 Readiness Ecosystem: Technology Demonstration on Using AI Technology to Crosstrain & Upskill Employees to Support Industry 4.0 Initiatives and Reduce Supply Chain Risk](#)

Tue July 20th 12-1 pm with StanleyX DeepHow

[NERDIC Industry 4.0 Readiness Ecosystem: Technology Demonstration on Augmented Reality for Industry 4.0](#)

Tues July 27 12:00 –1:00 pm with SphereGen

[NERDIC Industry 4.0 Readiness Ecosystem: Technology Demonstration on Generative Design and Additive Manufacturing](#)

Tues. August 10th @12:00-1:30pm

[NERDIC Industry 4.0 Readiness Ecosystem: Technology Demonstration on 3D Printed Parts Manufactured with the Desktop Metal Studio System for Defense Supply](#)

Tues. August 17th @ 12:00-1:30PM

[NERDIC Industry 4.0 Readiness Ecosystem: Technology Demonstration on Powder Bed Fusion \(PBF\) and Bound Metal Deposition \(BMD\) Additive Manufacturing Processes](#)

[CCAT Industry 4.0 Demonstration Program](#) This CCAT program will provide demonstrations, trainings, and adoption support of Industry 4.0 technologies. The four technology focus areas of this program are:

- **Industrial Internet of Things (IIOT)** – Digital shop floor technology including machine instrumentation, data analysis, and visualization for manufacturing
- **Big Data and Analytics** – Adoption of Model Based Definition and advanced digital design
- **Additive Manufacturing** – An alternative and often faster and cheaper method of producing parts
- **Automation** – Increasing the speed and accuracy of quality inspection using state-of-the-art vision, contact, and non-contact technologies

These are **no-cost programs** designed to minimize disruption to your current manufacturing process. We urge CT manufacturing companies to take advantage of this CT program led by CCAT, now thru Spring 2023. **To apply visit:** [CCAT Industry 4.0 Demonstration Program](#)

Money for Manufacturing Programs – MATCHING GRANT PROGRAMS

[Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund Voucher Program \(MVP\)](#)

\$49,000 to conduct a project aimed at improving your manufacturing productivity, efficiency and competitiveness. Administered on a first-come first-served basis.

[Connecticut Manufacturing IoT Integration Voucher Program \(IVP\)](#)

\$20,000 to assist with the implementation of IoT solutions on your manufacturing floor. Administered on a first-come first-served basis.

A Few Minutes with Murph

Our sincere thanks to the ACM members who contributed by sending players and or sponsored the **Asnuntuck Community College/ACM Benefit Scholarship Golf Tournament** held on June 15th. It was a great day enjoyed by all, and with your generosity over \$25,000 was raised for scholarships.

As you may or may not be aware this will be my final newsletter as **Jessica Taylor** will take the position of **ACM Executive Director** on Tuesday July 6th.

The **ACM Board of Directors** made a worthy choice in selecting **Jessica** for the position. Please welcome **Jessica** as she transitions into her role and your support is also needed to make the transition smooth and seamless. **Al Samuel** will continue as a part-time employee of the ACM and will report to **Jessica**. I will stay on to help with her transition for a week or two then off into the sunset for me.

I can say, without hesitation, that I greatly enjoyed my 3+ years as the ACM's Executive Director. This is a strong and committed organization and yes, it is you, the members, who make this organization so special and successful, be forever proud of what you have forged.

Please continue to support the ACM by being engaged and participating in the monthly meetings, and surveys. Remember to update **Jessica** on any changes to your business such as key contact changes, special technologies changes, head count changes, business descriptions, logo's, manufacturing capability changes etc. so that the ACM data base and your webpage stays current. Reach out to make known your training needs and support the ACM training classes by participating in the multi-member classes which the ACM secures grants for.

[Most importantly, remember, and fully understand, that TOGTHGER. A WORLD OF EXPERTISE is truly who we are and how we are known.](#)

Take great pride in that, for it is you and your business, and the open willingness we have to share best practices and competitively collaborate with each other that makes Aerospace Alley!® and the ACM truly unique, and the best supply chain organization on planet earth for Aerospace and Defense.

For me, I do not plan on being a stranger, I am not crawling under some rock. Yes, I am retiring, yet I will look to help the ACM whenever my help is needed or requested. If I can ever be any assistance to you, my respected colleagues, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for any way I can assist you.

This industry has been very kind to me; however, my time has come, and I do look forward to my retirement, my travel plans, and spending time with my new granddaughter. Life is good!

Topics of Interest

No Silver Bullet Will Solve the Cyber Crisis

IndustryWeek Peter Fretty June 29, 2021

Intel executive discusses the importance of a big picture view to cybersecurity.



As the swarm of cyber attacks continues to disrupt business operations, it becomes crystal clear a serious issue exists. Companies have become increasingly digital, relying on an array of tools generating data, data that in many instances drives new efficiencies. Unfortunately, if something generates data, it is also susceptible to an attack -- and, in many instances, a very attractive target for today's sophisticated hacker.

Solving the current cyber problem is going to take far more than regulations, the involvement of law enforcement, air gapping, bolted on hardware or software. Simply put, there is no silver bullet. What is the answer? All of the above and then some. The best means of protection is to take a big picture view embracing the right mix of tools, and paying close attention to the security built into today's architecture from the ground up.

Martin Dixon, Intel fellow and vice president in the Intel security architecture and engineering group at Intel Corp., shares his insights around how companies often overlook the role that hardware security plays into the equation – especially in a digital world.

IW: What are companies missing in their security strategy?

Dixon: Security is a system property anchored in hardware. While scalable attacks come from software propagation, if you don't trust your hardware you can't trust any of the software running on top of it. I think even the smartest IT teams often overlook this fact. Software is only part of the solution. Hardware is the foundation, and hardware-accelerated security capabilities are becoming increasingly important among enterprise IT teams. According to a recent **Ponemon Institute** study, 76% of IT decision makers say it's highly important for their technology providers to offer hardware-assisted capabilities to defend against software exploits.

IW: Considering the ongoing digital transformation trend, is the growth of connected operational technology creating a larger risk? If so, what additional steps do organizations need to take?

Dixon: I would position this more as untapped. Our approach to security innovation is to build defenses into the foundation, protect data and workloads and improve software resilience. Good security requires defense in depth.

Today, AI-based robotics are used to perform repetitive and potentially hazardous tasks with greater speed and accuracy than humans. Machine vision is also used to validate features and check for defects, helping to deliver the highest-quality product possible. These edge deployments expand the attack surface of a system. Meanwhile **Stuxnet** in 2010 showed that virtual attacks can cross over into the physical realm. It's critical for systems to enable a path to securely onboard, boot and update to ensure they remain up to date. While zero days get the attention, all too often attacks happen on known vulnerabilities that have not been patched.

Manufacturing is part of our critical infrastructure and that means it is a priority target. I recommend manufacturers prioritize replacing legacy technologies and take a hybrid approach to their security infrastructure (hardware plus software).

To read the complete article [CLICK HERE](#)

Topics of Interest

What Does a Good Problem-Solving Culture Look Like?

IndustryWeek Rick Bohan June 14, 2021

Too many organizations lack structure around finding root causes and fixing them, and instead just go looking for someone to blame.

How would you describe your company's problem-solving culture? I have asked any number of managers that question; as often as not, it's received with a blank stare. Most managers haven't thought about just how problem-solving in their organization happens.

Asked his approach to hitting, baseball legend **Ted Williams** replied, "See the ball, hit the ball." That intuitive tactic worked for **Mr. Williams** but, too often, "seat of the pants" problem-solving leads to a "See the problem, fix the blame" culture. A leader's job is to create a "See the problem, study the problem, fix the problem" culture.

What, then, does such a culture look like? What consistent behaviors would we see organization members engaged in?

Blame-Free Discussion of Problems

I once heard a story about a manager who attended a seminar on continuous improvement strategies. During a break, she got a phone call about a problem back at the worksite. Forgetting everything she had heard at the workshop, she shouted into the phone, "Who's responsible for this? Just wait until I get hold of them!" It might be that the manager spoke in a moment of frustration, but it's likely that she and her management colleagues often evinced that very behavior. It's consistent with a "fix the blame" culture.

In the "fix the problem" culture, one hears lots of discussions of problems because they are identified quickly, and the culture reinforces deliberation of problems and their causes. Questions like, "How long has this been going on?"; "How often does this happen?"; "What were the circumstances around the problem?" are asked. Those questions seek data and information. They come from a stance of "We're all in this together and it's in all our interests to get to a solution that's effective and that everyone buys into." Questions like, "How could this have happened?"; "Why hasn't anyone done anything about this problem?"; "Why didn't you take steps to prevent this problem?" are avoided. Those inquiries come from a position of understandable frustration, but they seek to blame and punish rather than to develop solutions.

Uncovering Problems Is Reinforced

We're all familiar with the term "shoot the messenger." We're also familiar with the impact this behavior has on everyone's willingness to bring problems to light. Problems that are hidden can't be addressed.

Another dynamic that keeps problems hidden is the "we've always done it this way" or the "that's how things are here" mindset. A few decades ago, I worked for a lodging company. I tried to get the management team to understand the concept of cost of quality. There was clear resistance to the idea among the managers. I asked about the value of "comped meals"; i.e., restaurant meals for which the customer wasn't charged due to a complaint. I was certain that managers would be interested in analyzing this source of waste. Instead, they referred to it simply as "a cost of doing business" that was mostly out of their control.

To read the complete article [CLICK HERE](#)



News From ACM Members

The ACM did not receive any member news for June

If you have any current news you would like in the Newsletter,
please send to jtaylor@acm-ct.org

