

Capitalizing on the Benefits of Alternate Grade Electronics with Informed Risk

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The increased interest and need to utilize alternate-grade electronics in space systems is projected to continue. While alternate-grade electronics may not be appropriate for some applications, this presentation provides a discussion of uses where alternative-grade electronics could offer distinct advantages by leveraging their advanced capabilities, ready access and low purchase cost. Actions that the community can take to efficiently leverage alternate-grade electronics and inform risks for optimum, agile mission success is also discussed.



Brian E. Hardt is the general manager of the Electronics and Sensors Division (ESD) in the Engineering and Technology Group (ETG) at The Aerospace Corporation. In this role, he is responsible for leading and coordinating ETG support activities in remote sensing systems and space-related electronics engineering and evaluation. Based in El Segundo, Hardt also has an active role in ESD operations in Aerospace's Chantilly, Virginia location, providing unique end-to-end engineering and scientific support to national security, civil, and commercial customers. Expertise across three subdivisions includes satellite, airborne, and terrestrial remote sensing systems, electronics design and evaluation, and power systems.

Previously, Hardt held positions as associate principal director of Directorate H in Aerospace's National Systems Group, associate principal director of the Space Based Superiority Directorate in Space Systems Group (SSG), principal director of Space Based Sensing Engineering and Integration, and principal director of Overhead Persistent Infra-Red (OPIR) Space Systems in SSG.

Throughout his career at Aerospace, Hardt has provided leadership and made significant contributions to an array of space system programs. He has also played key roles in a number of corporate activities, which include serving on the Aerospace Diversity Action Committee and Aerospace 401(k) Committee.