

Aerospace Manufacturing and Automated Fastening (AMAF) - General Chair

Forrest Urban is the Vice-President of Operations Assembly for the Fuselage Segment, Spirit AeroSystems, Inc

Mr. Urban has worked a combined total of 30 years for the Boeing Company & Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. He started his career on the conventional milling machines progressing up to NC milling equipment, lead operator, and eventually into management.

In 1988, Mr. Urban was reassigned as the Program Manager for Single Aisle aircraft and had oversight for incorporation of the first 737-500 model into production. In 1990, he was promoted to Product Line Manager over the Sub-Assembly/Lot Time manufacturing area. In 1994, he became the Senior Manager responsible for the 737 Next Generation Integrated Product Team. Responsibilities included leading and participating in all phases of development including engineering design, tooling, and manufacturing engineering, through the production and delivery of the first airplane.

In 2004, Mr. Urban was selected to lead the Spirit Operations Team in the development of the forward fuselage of Boeing's newest airplane, the 787 Dreamliner. As Factory Director of the 787 Program, he led the implementation of one of the leanest and highly automated aircraft manufacturing facilities in the world today. In early 2008 when Spirit underwent a major restructuring, Mr. Urban was chosen to lead the newly formed Parts Management organization. As Sr. Director of the organization, he is responsible for the delivery of all purchased parts and Spirit fabricated parts to the Assembly customer. In May 2009 Mr. Urban was named Vice-President of Operations – Assembly responsible for the assembly & delivery of all major aircraft components supplied to the Boeing Company including the forward sections of the 747, 767, 777, & 787 models as well as the entire 737 fuselage.

Mr. Urban earned an Associate of Arts degree from Butler County Community College and later completed his Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management from Friends University in Wichita, Kan. He was selected to attend the Aerospace Industry Manufacturing Seminar at the University of Washington as well as the Boeing Senior Management Seminar in Seattle, Wash. He has obtained training in lean manufacturing techniques based upon the Toyota Production System, which included trips to study in Japan under the leadership of the Shingjutsu Consulting Group.

