

## Biography

## Debra D. Facktor

## SVP and Head of U.S. Space Systems **Airbus U.S. Space & Defense, Inc.**

Debra Facktor is the Head of U.S. Space Systems for Airbus U.S. Space & Defense, Inc. She leads the Airbus U.S. Space line of business with a focus on small satellites produced for commercial and government customers at the company's manufacturing facility in Merritt Island, Florida, and on space exploration activities in the U.S. Debra sits on the board of directors for Starlab Space LLC, a joint venture between Voyager and Airbus to build and operate a nextgeneration commercial space station. She also served on the board of the Airbus OneWeb Satellites joint venture prior to its recent acquisition by Airbus U.S.

Prior to joining Airbus U.S., Debra was Vice President and General

Manager of Strategic Operations for Ball Aerospace, leading the company's Washington D.C. operations, strategic development, and marketing and communications. Her extensive business experience includes serving as President and Owner of AirLaunch LLC, and as Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Planning for Kistler Aerospace Corporation. She also served as an industry professor at Steven Institute of Technology School of Systems and Enterprises and as Director of Strategic Programs for the Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC). Earlier in her career, Debra was Chief of Moscow Operations for ANSER's Center for International Aerospace Cooperation.

Debra is actively engaged as an advisor and mentor in the aerospace community and is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). She sits on the University of Michigan Aerospace Engineering Industrial Advisory Board and is Chair of SSPI-WISE (Space & Satellite Professionals International – Women in Space Engagement), former chair of the Board of Women in Aerospace (WIA), and former treasurer of the Future Space Leaders Foundation. She is also a fellow of the American Astronautical Society (AAS), an academician of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), and a member of Chief.

Debra received her bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan and is an alumna of the International Space University summer session program in Strasbourg, France.

