

## Ron Smith

Vice President  
Mission Assurance  
Northrop Grumman Information Systems



Ron Smith is vice president of mission assurance for Northrop Grumman's Information Systems sector. In this role, Mr. Smith leads the sector's activities to drive disciplined programs and engineering and process management principles to deliver quality products and services, enhanced productivity and assured program performance. He is responsible for the sector's programs covering project quality assurance; supplier qualification, selection and assessment; system safety, reliability and maintainability; and independent program review and risk management.

Mr. Smith most recently served as vice president of corporate competitive excellence, leading the company's effort to drive process improvement and enhance performance across the corporation. In this position, he helped expand the company's shared services approach to further reduce costs, drove electrical and mechanical production projects leading to operational synergies, supported the enhancement of engineering capabilities with common tool sets and new Web 2.0 engineering design tools, and helped roll out structured subcontract management tools to better manage major suppliers.

Previously Mr. Smith was vice president of Six Sigma for Northrop Grumman's Space Technology (ST) sector. The process-based business approach he implemented there contributed significantly to the sector's mission assurance efforts. During his time at the ST sector he also served as director of electrical processes and products in engineering.

Since joining TRW in 1982, he has held many technical and managerial positions related to the development of electrical communications hardware for satellite systems. He was responsible for the design and development of all electrical hardware for flight programs, including RF, digital, mixed signal and power and control disciplines and flight embedded software. He led the Digital Products Center for payload electrical design and was principle investigator for multiple Independent Research and Development (IRAD) programs in the development of advanced communications hardware.

Mr. Smith earned a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, with post-baccalaureate studies at Long Beach State University.