Chris Hernandez is sector vice president of Research, Technology and Engineering at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, a premier provider of military aircraft, autonomous and space systems and next-generation solutions to assist our customers worldwide, preserve freedom and advance human discovery.

In this role, Hernandez is responsible for leading the Aerospace Systems engineering organization and managing the processes and tools used to design and develop the sector’s wide array of products and programs. He also oversees NG Next, the sector’s basic research and applied technology organization, which are critical functions for our future technical development and growth and a competitive discriminator for Aerospace Systems.

Previously, he served as the vice president of NG Next. Prior to that, he was vice president of Advanced Systems where he led the creation of advanced system solutions for future programs, such as next generation air dominance fighters, low observable and counter low observable systems, long-range strike and ISR systems, advanced weapons and future cargo/transport systems. He has also served as the chief technology officer and vice president, Technology Development, for Aerospace Systems’ former Advanced Programs and Technology business area.

Other past positions included: vice president of Engineering and Programs for the former Integrated Systems sector; vice president and deputy of the Airborne Ground Surveillance and Battle Management Systems business area; vice president and chief engineer of the B-2 bomber program; and vice president and program manager of the Multi-Platform Radar Technology Insertion Program (MP-RTIP). Before joining Northrop Grumman in 1987 as a project engineer, Hernandez worked for Rockwell International Corporation in the development of NASA’s Space Shuttle and other advanced space launch vehicle concepts.

Hernandez earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from California State University, Long Beach, and a master’s degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Sloan Fellows program. He is a current member and former chair of the CSULB College of Engineering Dean’s Advisory Council, and an active member and former chairman of the Technical Operations Council of the Aerospace Industries Association. Since 2001, Hernandez has also served on the board of directors of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, the largest nonprofit social services organization in the U.S.

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