

CATHERINE J. STEELE

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL SYSTEMS GROUP



Catherine J. Steele is senior vice president of the National Systems Group, based in Chantilly, Virginia. She was promoted to this position in April 2015. National Systems Group supports the national security space and intelligence community in the acquisition, launch, and orbital operation of advanced technology space systems and their ground data stations.

Previously, Steele was vice president of Strategic Space Operations, where she oversaw mission area activities in space situational awareness, space protection, small satellites, and nuclear operations for U.S. Air Force Space Command, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, and the Space and Missile Systems Center, among others.

Steele has held a number of increasingly more responsible positions at the corporation, including general manager, National Space Systems Engineering; systems director, Communications Systems and Information Engineering and principal director, Planning and Communications Division, both within the National Systems Group, assigned to the National Reconnaissance Office.

Before joining Aerospace in 1985, Steele worked at Hughes Aircraft in the Radar Systems Division, for the MITRE Corporation in signal processing and navigation, and at Advent Systems in signal processing and communications.

The Aerospace Corporation is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the objective application of science and technology toward the solution of critical issues affecting the nation's space program.

Education

Steele earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering/system science and a master's degree in engineering control systems from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Affiliations

Steele is a member of the National Defense Industrial Association, an Associate Fellow with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a member of Women in Aerospace. She serves on the Federal Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) and on the University of Maryland School of Aerospace Engineering Board of Visitors. Steele also holds a technician-level license with the American Radio Relay League.

Honors and Awards

Steele received the 2001 NRO Director's Team Award, the 2004 National Security Space Team award, and was honored with the 2013 Women in Aerospace Leadership Award.

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