

William (Bill) Townsend
Townsend Aerospace Consulting, LLC

Bill Townsend brings almost 45 years of experience in the Aerospace Industry to Townsend Aerospace Consulting, LLC. His most recent position was with the Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation, in Boulder, CO, from 2004-2008. Bill's concluding assignment at Ball was as the Vice President, Exploration Systems, where he led the company's pursuit of the Instrument Unit contract for NASA's Ares I launch vehicle, from the new Ball office that he established in Huntsville, AL in 2007. Prior to this appointment, Bill served as Vice President and General Manager of the Civil Space Systems strategic business unit, where he was responsible for all of Ball's civilian space endeavors, including such diverse activities as the Deep Impact mission, the HIRISE camera that flew on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), the James Webb Space Telescope mirror and associated electronics, the GPM microwave imager, the Kepler planet finding mission, and two instruments, the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) and the Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC 3), both which were installed in the Hubble Space Telescope during the May 2009 Hubble Shuttle Servicing mission.

Bill brought to Ball Aerospace over 40 years of experience in program and project management with NASA, from aircraft and spacecraft instrument development to international space mission development. As Deputy Center Director and Program Management Council Chairperson at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center from 1998-2004, Bill oversaw the development, launch and operation of all NASA Goddard instruments, spacecraft and missions. During his 40-year NASA career, Bill was closely involved with almost 60 missions, including over 30 missions while at NASA Goddard. During his tenure, NASA Goddard experienced only one accountable mission failure for a success rate of 97%. Bill also championed and led a diversity effort that promoted inclusion, respect, and appreciation among NASA Goddard's 3,000-plus government employees, which was followed by his co-sponsoring a Diversity Initiative while he was at Ball Aerospace. Other positions held at NASA Headquarters in the Earth Science Enterprise area from 1979-1998 include acting Associate Administrator for almost 2 years; Deputy Associate Administrator; Deputy Division Director; Flight Program Branch Chief; and Program Manager of the (all international) TOPEX/Poseidon, NASA Scatterometer and Radarsat programs. Previously, at the NASA Wallops Flight Center from 1963-1979, Bill served as SeaSat Radar Altimeter Experiment Manager, Aerospace Technologist, and Electronic Technician Apprentice.

Bill holds a BSEE with honors from Virginia Tech, and maintains professional affiliations with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the American Astronautical Society (AAS). He is also a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the Planetary Society, the National Space Club, and Women in Aerospace. Bill's roster of honors and awards include two Presidential Rank, Meritorious Executive awards; two NASA Distinguished Service Medals; the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal; the NASA Exceptional Service Medal; the French Space Agency's (CNES) Bronze Medal; and the NASA GSFC's Robert C. Baumann Memorial Award for Mission Success.