## Mark Vellacott – Short Biography

Mark has a broad range of domestic and international engineering and management experience in both small and large advanced technology and aerospace companies. He is a Fellow of the Royal aeronautical Society and chartered engineer, supported by an MBA and two engineering degrees, with 30 years of experience managing operational, sales and business development related activities, as well as technology commercialisation programs in the sustainability and aerospace sectors.

Mark’s past management experience includes involvement in a number of significant defence and commercial contracts, and strategic investment appraisal whilst working for British Aerospace and BAE SYSTEMS in the UK and Australia, as well as a number of programs involving interaction with Australian state and federal governments on strategic industry development initiatives

As the Managing Director of the ASX listed technology company Structural Monitoring Systems plc Mark had the responsibility for the leadership, development and management of teams operating in the US, UK and Australia. The position required strong communication and commercial negotiation skills, with a particular emphasis on the development and marketing of the company’s innovative structural health monitoring products and services to major airline companies and military organisations around the world. In recognition of Mark’s contribution to the advancement of structural health management technologies in US airlines he received the “NDT - Better Way” award from the US Federal Aviation Administration and Air Transport Association of America.

As Technical Director for Asia Pacific Space Center, Mark was responsible for the technical and commercial management of key aspects of a major infrastructure project working to establish a commercial satellite launch facility on Christmas Island. This role involved interaction with a number of Australian federal government departments, and Mark negotiated the system and safety requirements for a launch vehicle and systems supply contracts with Russian government and aerospace company representatives in Moscow. Mark also managed the development of the risk hazard analysis of the various proposed launch trajectories from Christmas Island in accordance with the demanding requirements of the Australian Space Activities Act.

Mark previously worked for BAE SYSTEMS and its predecessor British Aerospace for 21 years. Initially starting as an Undergraduate Apprentice at British Aerospace Kingston. Graduating with a BSc in Aeronautical Engineering Mark joined the Harrier and Hawk Aerodynamics Department, developing an advanced VSTOL flight simulation environments. After completing an MSc in Systems Engineering Mark was made Section Leader of the Advanced Flight Control group, working on the development of thrust vectoring control systems for new combat aircraft. After a period spent on secondment to McDonnell Douglas in St Louis, USA, Mark was promoted to Group Leader Flight Mechanics, and managed the group responsible for Harrier stores clearances as well as thrust vectoring control and automated process development research programs. Mark’s last role in the Military Aircraft Group was as Manager Aerodynamic Technology, and managed the Harrier aerodynamics group at Farnborough, at this time he was also selected to join the company’s intercompany MBA program.

Ahead of a planned career move to Australia, Mark transferred to British Aerospace plc Head Office, reporting to the Engineering Director. Mark managed the engineering related acquisition due diligence activities associated with the strategic development of BAe into the defence systems focussed company that became BAE SYSTEMS, and the management of post-acquisition engineering business integration. Mark also chaired a Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) industry working group that introduced lean manufacturing practises and standards for UK aerospace companies, and represented BAe’s interests in the UK Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) Aerospace Sector Target Advisory Group.

Mark transferred from Head Office to British Aerospace (now BAE SYSTEMS) Australia as Head of Engineering Technology, and was responsible for the management of the post-acquisition integration of the advanced technology programs of AWA Defence Industries, Siemens Plessey Electronic Systems, and GEC-Marconi into the company. Mark also represented the company’s interests as the President and Chairman of the Electronics Industry Association, during which time he championed the development and successful launch of a strategic plan for the industry in association with the South Australian state government.