

Aerospace, Defense Sectors Slip 1.3% in OC Headcount

Anduril Adds Employees Amid Costa Mesa Move

By KEVIN COSTELLOE

Commercial aviation and a rise in demand for global defense tools is helping bolster some local aerospace and defense contractors in 2022, despite a sector-wide decline in headcount last year.

Local employees among the 26 largest aerospace and defense companies in Orange County dipped 1.3% this year to 19,528. The area's base of workers has been shrinking the past two decades as longtime stalwart **Boeing** slimmed down its base in Seal Beach, Huntington Beach and Anaheim.

Anduril Expansion

Not all OC contractors are slimming down. **Palmer Luckey's** Costa Mesa defense company **Anduril Industries** is one firm on an employment kick, with business ranging from work along the U.S. border with Mexico to aiding the Ukrainian military in its fight against Russian forces.

Anduril came in No. 12 on this year's Business Journal list of largest local aerospace and defense companies by headcount, as the number of local employees jumped to 524 this year from 400 in 2021.

The company early this year moved to a new base in Costa Mesa; the campus offers plenty of room for expansion as Anduril boosts its local headcount further. The company's valua-



Anduril's Palmer Luckey (right) meets with Andriy Yermak, the head of the presidential office of Ukraine

tion is reportedly approaching \$7 billion if not more. Anduril employs about 1,200 companywide now.

The LIST
Aerospace & Defense Contractors
p17

Ducommun

Aerospace and defense manufacturer **Ducommun Inc.** (NYSE: DCO) in Santa Ana is among companies seeing commercial aviation picking up.

"It was another solid quarter for the company as we move forward in 2022 with commercial aerospace demand leading the way along with another quarter of steady performance in Ducommun's defense business," CEO, Chairman and President **Stephen Oswald** said in the \$530 million-valued company's second-quarter earnings release on Aug. 4.

Quarterly revenue for the company exceeded \$170 million for the first time since the onset of the pandemic, rising 9% to \$174.2 million.

Ducommun's headcount was also steady, with 82 employees this year, coming in at No. 24.

"We were delighted to see significant volume return led by commercial aircraft platform sales to Boeing, Airbus and Gulfstream with overall commercial aero-

space revenue for the company up over 50% year-over-year," Oswald said.

Panasonic Avionics

Other companies underscored the rise in commercial aviation products.

Panasonic Avionics Corp., whose product line includes seatback entertainment systems, said it sees a "broad recovery for the airline industry and sustained increases in passenger traffic."

CEO **Ken Sain** said in July "Panasonic is entering this period of renewed industry demand from a position of innovation and strength."

The company is No. 5 on the list with 1,390 local employees, down almost 30% from the year prior.

Panasonic Avionics is now headquartered in Irvine with over 3,200 employees company-wide and operates in 50 locations around the globe.

France-based **Safran**, which makes aircraft cabin interiors in Huntington Beach, said on July 28 that "aircraft interiors revenue increased by a solid 29.6% from a low comparison base a year ago. Growth was primarily driven by services for both Seats and Cabin activities."

Safran is No. 3 on the Business Journal rankings, despite its estimated local headcount dropping slightly to 1,644 from 1,756 last year.

Boeing, Raytheon

The list features Boeing in Seal Beach as No. 1 once again with an estimated 4,800 employees and Fullerton-based **Raytheon Technologies Corp.** as No. 2 with an estimated 2,000 employees.

Terran Orbital Corp., a small-satellite maker that is scheduled to take part in NASA's Artemis 1 moon mission, jumped to 312 OC employees this year from 141 in 2021. Terran is headquartered in Boca Raton, Fla., but has most of its employees in Orange County (see story, page 1).

The Irvine operations of **Parker Aerospace** added 10 people to bring its headcount up to 1,240 for one of Orange County's larger aerospace employers.

Parker, which stayed at No. 6 in the Business Journal rankings, recently landed a \$444 million U.S. military contract that will lead to more than 50 hires in the years ahead, among its other local achievements. ■

THE LIST AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CONTRACTORS



TED BAKER
VP of Operations
Astronics Test Systems



ELIJAH DOBRUSIN
VP of Marketing and Sales, Leach Corp.
TransDigm Group Inc.



BRIAN ECKERLE
General Manager
L3Harris



NAVEED HUSSAIN
CTO, VP and General Manager of
Research & Technology Boeing Co.



DAVID J. MEAD
CEO
Holt Integrated Circuits Inc.



STEPHEN G. OSWALD
Chairman, CEO and President
Ducommun Inc.

THE LIST AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CONTRACTORS

RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

Rank	Company •Address	Company logo	OC employees •yearly % change	Companywide employees •yearly % change	OC divisions/operations	Partial list of products	Partial list of clients	Parent company •Headquarters	Top local official(s) •Title •Phone/fax	
1 (1)	Boeing Co. 2201 Seal Beach Blvd. Seal Beach 90740-5603 Website: boeing.com		4,800 ⁽¹⁾ NA 2	142,000 0%	Commercial aviation engineering and fleet support, design and engineering support for military and autonomous maritime systems, networked systems and advanced engineering, design and manufacturing	would not disclose	Commercial Airline Industry, U.S. Military, Allied Nations, NASA	Boeing Co. Chicago	Naveed Hussain CTO/VP, general manager, Boeing Research & Technology (562) 797-2020	
2 (2)	Raytheon Technologies Corp. 1801 Hughes Drive Fullerton 92833-2200 Website: rtx.com Email: corporatepr@rtx.com		2,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA 2	174,000 -3%	Raytheon Intelligence & Space, Raytheon Missiles & Defense, Pratt & Whitney, Collins Aerospace	Command & Control (C2), C4I systems, battlefield radars	U.S. government, international airlines, aircraft manufacturers	Raytheon Technologies Arlington, Va.	Roy Azevedo president, Raytheon Intelligence & Space (714) 446-3232	
3 (4)	Safran 5701 Bolsa Ave. Huntington Beach 92647-2063 Website: safran-group.com		1,644 -6% 6	76,800 1%	Safran Aerosystems, Safran Cabin, Safran Electronics & Defense	Aircraft interiors, avionics, in-flight entertainment systems	Airbus, Boeing, Embraer, Bombardier	Safran S.A. Paris	Peter Lengyel CEO/president, USA (714) 934-0000/(714) 934-0088	
4 (5)	Precision Castparts Corp. 1224 E. Warner Ave. Santa Ana 92705-5414 Website: precast.com		1,400 ⁽¹⁾ NA 4	30,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Cherry Aerospace, Santa Ana; SPS Technologies, Santa Ana; Shur-Lok Co., Irvine; Air Industries Co., Garden Grove	Joint Strike Fighter, A350, 787, specialty fasteners, fastening systems, fasteners for military aircraft, satellites	Boeing, Lockheed Martin Corp., Airbus SAS, military and commercial aircrafts, Northrop Grumman Corp.	Precision Castparts Corp. Lake Oswego, Ore.	Daniel Strangio/DeAndre Hanson general manager, Cherry Aerospace, SPS Technologies, Air Industries/director of sales, Shur-Lok (714) 545-5511/(714) 850-3605	
5 (3)	Panasonic Avionics Corp. 3347 Michelson Drive, Ste. 100 Irvine 92612-0661 Website: panasonic.aero Email: info@panasonic.aero		1,390 -30% 2	3,200 -9%	Headquarters	In-flight entertainment systems, in-flight connectivity, technical services,	Emirates, Etihad, All Nippon Airways, Singapore Airlines, United Airlines Inc.	Panasonic Corp. Osaka, Japan	Ken Sain CEO (949) 672-2000/(949) 462-7100	
6 (6)	Parker Aerospace 14300 Alton Parkway Irvine 92618-1898 Website: parker.com		1,240 1% 2	5,340 6%	Control systems, fluid systems, customer service operations (after-market)	737, 777, A220, A320, A350, F-35, F/A-18, F-16, F-135, F414, UH-60 Black Hawk	Boeing, Lockheed Martin, U.S. Government, GE, Airbus, Raytheon Technologies, Rolls-Royce, Embraer, General Dynamics, Bombardier, Safran	Parker Hannifin Corp. Cleveland	Roger Sherrard president (949) 833-3000	
7 (7)	TransDigm Group Inc. 300 E. Cypress St. Brea 92821-4007 Website: transdigm.com Email: ir@transdigm.com		1,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA 5	13,300 -6%	Kirkhill Elastomers, Brea; Adams Rite Aerospace Inc., Fullerton; Hartwell Corp., Placentia; Leach International Corp., Buena Park; Palomar Products Inc., Rancho Santa Margarita	737 AEW&C, P-8A Poseidon aircraft, C-130J, 737 AEW&C, P-8A Poseidon aircraft, C-130J, Joint Strike Fighter, Airbus A320neo & A350, Boeing 787, interior locks, latches, electro-mechanical controls, fluid controls, oxygen products, KC-767, Boeing H-47, Sikorsky S-76, Embraer KC390	Northrup Grumman, Spirit, Gulfstream, Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Embraer, Lockheed Martin, L-3 Communications Inc.	Transdigm Group Inc. Cleveland	Elijah Dobrusin/Kevin McHenry/ Mike Rabjohn/John Binkley/Ron Kato VP, sales & marketing, Leach/president, Kirkhill/president, Palomar Products/president, Adams Rite Aerospace/president, Hartwell (714) 529-4901	
8 (9)	L3Harris 901 E. Ball Road Anaheim 92805-5916 Website: l3harris.com		950 10% 2	47,000 0%	Power Paragon Inc., Interstate Electronic Corp.	Power conversion and distribution solutions, navigation solutions, range and test solutions	U.S. Navy, Federal Aviation Administration	L3Harris Technologies Melbourne, Fla.	Brian Eckerle general manager (714) 956-9200	
9 (8)	Thales Avionics Inc. 58 Discovery Irvine 92618-3105 Website: thalesgroup.com Email: thalesinflyt.communications@us.thalesgroup.com		900 ⁽¹⁾ NA 1	5,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Thales InFlyt Experience	In-flight entertainment systems	Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, Bombardier	Thales Group La Défense, France	TK Kallenbach CEO, InFlyt Experience (949) 790-2500/(949) 790-2998	
10 (10)	GKN Aerospace 12122 Western Ave. Garden Grove 92841-2915 Website: gknaerospace.com		600 0% 1	15,000 0%	GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems	Aerospace transparencies, sheetmetal engine components	Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier, Lockheed Martin	Melrose Industries PLC Solihull, U.K.	Diego Torres/Scott Gulyas site director, Transparency Systems/site director, Chemtronics Inc. (714) 893-7531/(714) 897-1139	
11 (14)	Applied Composites 25671 Commercentre Drive Lake Forest 92630-8801 Website: appliedcomposites.com		539 1% 3	821 4%	Applied Composites, Brea; Applied Composites, Lake Forest	Airframe structures, engines, nacelles and auxiliary power units, specialty structures, supplier of complex composite parts and tooling for Tier 1 and OEM customers	would not disclose	Applied Composites Lake Forest	David Horner CEO (949) 716-3511/(949) 716-3566	
12 (12)	Anduril Industries 1375 W. Sunflower Ave. Costa Mesa 92626-1665 Website: anduril.com Email: contact@anduril.com		524 31% 3	1,200 100%	Headquarters	Detection and tracking towers, drones	U.S. Govt.	Anduril Industries Costa Mesa	Palmer Luckey founder (949) 891-1607	

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; NR: not ranked

Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first

top official listed.

⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate

Researched by Meghan Kliever

THE LIST AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CONTRACTORS

► From page 17

RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

Rank	Company •Address Rank	Company logo	OC employees •yearly % change OC sites	Companywide employees •yearly % change	OC divisions/operations	Partial list of products	Partial list of clients	Parent company •Headquarters	Top local official(s) •Title •Phone/fax	
13 (11)	Meggitt PLC 9801 Muirlands Blvd. Irvine 92618-2521 Website: meggitt.com		500 ⁽¹⁾ NA 2	9,270 3%	Meggitt Defense Systems Inc., Irvine; Meggitt Sensing Systems, Irvine	P-8 Poseidon Electronics Cooling, Navy/Air Force Airborne Countermeasures Systems, AH-1Z Cobra 20mm system, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F-22 Raptor, UH-60 Blackhawk	General Dynamics Corp., Raytheon, Boeing, government, Hamilton Sundstrand, Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky	Meggitt PLC Coventry, England	Roger Brum/Steven Rivera president, Defense Systems/VP, global supply chair development (949) 465-7700	
14 (13)	Howmet Fastening Systems 800 S. State College Blvd. Fullerton 92831-5334 Website: howmet.com		406 7% 2	19,900 -1%	Howmet Fastening Systems	Aerospace fasteners, fluid fittings, installation tools	Boeing, General Electric Co., Pratt & Whitney, Airbus, Lockheed	Howmet Aerospace Inc. Pittsburgh	Jeremiah Greenwald director of operations (714) 871-1550	
15 (17)	Terran Orbital Corp. ⁽²⁾ 15330 Barranca Parkway Irvine 92618-2215 Website: terranorbital.com Email: virginia.norder@terranorbital.com		312 121% 3	395 109%	Terran	Satellites	Dept. of Defense, NASA, Space Development Agency, Fleet Space, GeoOptics	Terran Orbital Corp. Boca Raton, Fla.	Marc Bell CEO (949) 508-6404	
16 (15)	Airborne Systems 3100 W. Segerstrom Ave. Santa Ana 92704-5812 Website: airborne-sys.com		300 ⁽¹⁾ NA 1	500 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Airborne Systems	NASA Orion CPAS, SpaceX Falcon 9 Dragon Recovery System, T-11 troop parachute system, USMC PS-2, US ARMY RA-1	NASA, SpaceX, Department of Defense	Airborne Systems Group Pennsauken, N.J.	Robert Shiley II VP/general manager, Space & Recovery Group (657) 859-3000/(714) 662-1586	
17 (NR)	Virgin Galactic Holdings Inc. 1700 Flight Way Tustin 92782-1839 Website: virgingalactic.com		150 ⁽¹⁾ NA 1	804 -2%	Headquarters	Commercial spaceline	would not disclose	Tustin	Michael Colglazier CEO/director (575) 424-2100	
18 (NR)	Overair Inc. 3001 S. Susan St. Santa Ana 92704-6434 Website: overair.com		140 ⁽¹⁾ NA 1	140 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Headquarters; designs, develops, and manufactures electric VTOL aircraft for air taxi and aerial mobility operations	Butterfly	would not disclose	Overair Inc. Santa Ana	Ben Tigner/Abe Karem co-founder, CEO/co-founder, principal designer (949) 503-7503	
19 (19)	Swift Engineering Inc. 1141 Via Callejon, Ste. A San Clemente 92673-6230 Website: swiftengineering.com Email: info@swiftengineering.com		130 44% 2	130 44%	Headquarters, product development, R&D, build to print, manufacturing	Manned systems, unmanned systems, VTOL/transitional, fixed wing aircraft, multirotor & helicopters, ground vehicles, submersibles, surface vessels, space, HALE, tactical UAVs, robotics, system of systems, advanced composites	Northrup Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Bell	Swift Engineering Inc. San Clemente	Hiro Matsushita/Hamed Khalkhali/Alex Echeverria CEO, chairman/VP, engineering/VP, BD, sales and contracts (949) 492-6608/(949) 366-8249	
20 (23)	Astronics Test Systems 4 Goodyear Irvine 92618-2002 Website: astronics.com Email: atsinfo@astronics.com		108 NA 1	2,200 NA	Astronics Test Systems	Test systems, test instruments, test software	U.S. Govt. and the world's prime aerospace & defense and freight & mass transit manufacturers	Astronics Corp. East Aurora, N.Y.	Ted Baker VP, operations (949) 859-8999/(949) 859-7139	
21 (20)	Marvin Test Solutions Inc. 1770 Kettering Irvine 92614-5616 Website: marvintest.com Email: info@marvintest.com		101 0% 1	981 0%	Headquarters	TS-323 GENASYS Test System for functional test, MTS-2xx Series Armament test sets, MTS-3060A SmartCan, Field/Flightline test set, GENASYS Semi 5G mmWave semiconductor test systems	Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Renesas	Marvin Engineering Co. Irvine	Steve Sargeant/Loofie Gutterman CEO/president (949) 263-2222/(949) 263-1203	
22 (21)	Cadence Aerospace LLC 3150 E. Miraloma Ave. Anaheim 92806-1906 Website: cadenceaerospace.com Email: info@cadenceaerospace.com		100 0% 1	900 0%	Arden Engineering Inc.	Aviation components, subassemblies, repair	Boeing, Collins Aerospace, Spirit, Lockheed, Gulfstream, Honeywell and General Electric	Cadence Aerospace LLC Anaheim	Olivier Jarrault CEO (949) 877-3630	
23 (25)	Holt Integrated Circuits Inc. ⁽³⁾ 101 Columbia Aliso Viejo 92656-1455 Website: holtic.com Email: info@holtic.com		91 14% 1	84 2%	Design, manufacturing, testing, shipping	Mixed signal ICs for aerospace and defense data bus applications: MIL-STD-1553, ARINC 429, IP cores, GND/open sensors, supply/open sensors	would not disclose	Aliso Viejo	David J. Mead CEO (949) 859-8800/(949) 859-9643	
24 (24)	Ducommun Inc. 200 Sandpointe Ave., Ste. 700 Santa Ana 92707-5759 Website: ducommun.com Email: lgonzalez@ducommun.com		82 0% 3	2,502 3%	Headquarters, Santa Ana; operations, Huntington Beach, Orange	Black Hawk, 737, 787, A320	Boeing, Airbus, Raytheon, United Technologies	Ducommun Inc. Santa Ana	Stephen G. Oswald chairman/CEO/president (657) 335-3665	
25 (26)	Symbolic Displays Inc. 1917 St. Andrew Place E. Santa Ana 92705-5143 Website: symbolicdisplays.com Email: info@symbolicdisplays.com		71 -1% 2	72 0%	Headquarters	Manufacturer of simulator and cockpit displays, aircraft panels, integrated and illuminated keyboards, and aircraft exit signs	would not disclose	Symbolic Displays Inc. Santa Ana	Candy Suits CEO (714) 258-2811	
26 (27)	Airworthy Inc. 1560 S. Harris Court Anaheim 92806-5931 Website: airworthy.aero Email: sales@airworthy.aero		50 ⁽¹⁾ NA 1	85 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Bolder Manufacturing LLC	Manufactures and repairs interior products for commercial aircraft types; galleys, class dividers	Delta, American, United, AAR and Siemens	Airworthy Aerospace Industries Inc. Hudson, Wis.	Abraham Sarraf VP, sales and marketing (714) 901-0660	

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; NR: not ranked
 Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first top official listed.

⁽²⁾ Previously listed as Tyvak Nano-Satellite Systems Inc.

⁽³⁾ Previously listed as W. G. Holt Inc.

⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate

Researched by Meghan Klierer