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Aerospace Section

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AEROSPACE SECTION OF THE ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division encourages communication and cooperation among information professionals concerned with aerospace, aeronautical and related technologies. In addition, it fosters dialog with entities such as NASA, the AIAA and other important sources of technical data and bibliographical services.

FROM THE CHAIR

THOMAS DE PETRO

Let me start with a follow-up to my article about ESDU, the Engineering Sciences Data Unit, that I published in *Sci-Tech News* last November. I would then like to share some of my thoughts on recent events and their effect on the aerospace sector.

The ESDU online Web product is now available to academic institutions from IHS at a discounted subscription price of \$7,500 per year. ESDU has both commercial and educational uses in aerospace, structural, mechanical, and process engineering, plus in environmental technology.



The tragic events of September 11th affected the entire world. The loss of life and the destruction of property in New York City and Washington, D.C. saddened and stunned people everywhere. In all areas of engineering, including the aerospace realm, there is a need for additional effort on many levels to assist in the aftermath and the recovery. The biggest goal for the entire aerospace industry will be to contribute on all levels to the prevention of such incidents in the future.

As the Section's members know, every segment of the aerospace industry has been affected. It is a long and growing list including airlines, aircraft companies, rocket and engine manufacturers, defense companies, air transportation facilities and the industries that support them, governments, and educational and research institutions. As the engineers, managers, technicians, researchers, politicians, professors, students, military personnel, and others begin to grapple with the resulting challenges, they will have an even greater need for reliable information resources. As always, that is where we as aerospace information professionals come in, by continuing to contrib-

ute our expertise. Providing comprehensive access to aerospace information is not a new task to us. It is a continuation of our mission and that of the entire SLA in "putting knowledge to work."

The current situation, however, adds a certain edge to that work. One example of this is the Jane's Information Group sources. Looking at that company's printed *Catalogue 2001*, the reality of the post-September 11th situation for aerospace is more apparent. The *Catalogue* lists not only the familiar aircraft sources, but also others in the related defense, military, and security arenas. Keywords such as warfare, targets, weapons, radar, imaging, security, insurgency, and terrorism occur in the titles of some Jane's products. Even the introduction written earlier this year by managing director Alfred Rolington, weighs heavy. He stated that, "As global geopolitical issues increasingly dominate world business and security, it has never been more important to evaluate all of the complex factors that influence the dynamics of world economic and political global stability." That statement further emphasizes how information sources are a key element in addressing the tremendous challenge the aerospace industry now faces.

Jane's is just one of many publishers in our industry. AIAA, ASME, SAE, IEEE, CRC, Wiley, McGraw-Hill, and others also come to mind. Just knowing that there are relevant and reliable information sources available from publishers is important in our work. Our awareness of information can be its beginning link for our users, be they clients, customers, patrons, students, faculty members, etc. For us, that awareness often begins at our annual conference, where publishers are present as exhibitors and sponsors of the Aerospace Section or the Engineering Division. Our conference programs also provide opportunities for awareness of relevant aerospace information sources through our speakers, presenters, panels, and discussions.

On a personal note, I have never been to the Pentagon, but I saw the program about it on the Discovery Channel the week before it was tragically hit. In 1996, I had the opportunity to visit New York City and the World Trade

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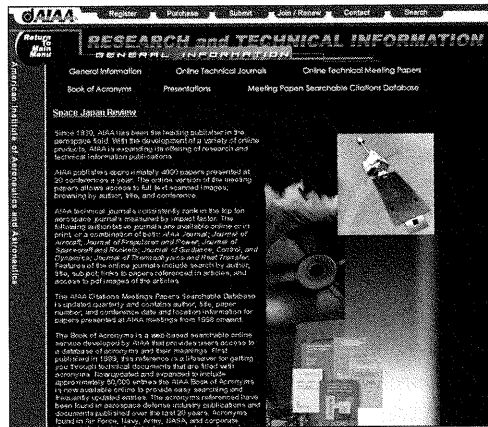
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Space Japan Review

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Acronyms in Aerospace and Defense

Fernando B. Morinigo and
Peter Landecker

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Center, one of many things I owe to my membership in SLA. I was there to see an SLA colleague whom I knew from our university's student group. She was working for the Linda Hall Library in its acquisition of the Engineering Societies' Library, located across the street from the United Nations. We visited the New York Public Library Business and Technology branch in Midtown Manhattan, an impressive special/public library. I went to the WTC by myself on a clear, fall day. Buying a ticket and riding to the top of Tower 2 was a breeze. I nearly forgot about the engineering marvels of the place when I stepped out on the observation deck and was surrounded by the clear blue sky and the fabulous view in all directions. It was one of those neat moments, now a significant memory. I hope one day to return to the site of the World Trade Center when it is finally cleared and has a memorial to the memory of all those who died in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

**Aerospace Division New Members as of
October 15, 2001**

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