

# OC Aerospace, Defense Companies Trim Headcount

## Boeing, Panasonic Fall; Anduril Up to 400 OC Workers

By KEVIN COSTELLOE

Leading companies in the OC commercial aerospace sector—including **Boeing**, **Panasonic Avionics**, **Safran** and **Thales Avionics**—cut back their workforces over the past year as the pandemic brought air travel to a near halt.

Overall, the 27 top aerospace and defense companies on the Business Journal’s annual list registered a 4.1% drop in headcount to 19,827 in Orange County as of last month compared to 12 months earlier, based on

numbers provided by the firms and Business Journal estimates.

Orange County wasn’t as hard hit as other regions. The company-wide headcount of these same firms fell 10.2% over the past year to 639,718.

Defense companies fared better. **Raytheon Technologies Inc.** in Fullerton moved up two notches to the No. 2 slot in this year’s Orange County rankings, as its headcount was stable at 2,000.

While small in size compared to Raytheon, **Palmer Luckey’s** defense and border protection company **Anduril Industries** in Irvine had the most notable rise in local staff size, jumping 82% to 400 em-



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDURIL

Well-funded Anduril boosts local base over 80% in past year

ployees in OC and moving up three places on the list to No. 12.

### Upturn Expected

Commercial airplane makers and their suppliers are counting on an upturn despite the worrying numbers of people sickened by the Delta variant of COVID and those avoiding air travels.

Lake Forest-based **Panasonic Avionics**, which makes entertainment systems for the back of seats of commercial airlines, held onto the No. 3 position, but saw its local

headcount decline by 10% to 1,980. The company will be moving its headquarters to Irvine, mostly likely at the end of this year.

Huntington Beach-based **Safran**, part of the French-based aerospace giant, fell two places to No. 4, as its headcount in OC slid to 1,756 this year from an estimated 2,000 last year. Safran cabin interiors are made in Surf City. In Brea, affiliate **Safran Passenger Innovations** develops in-flight entertainment systems and connectivity systems.

**Thales Avionics** in Irvine fell to an estimated 900 employees this year from 1,100 last year and slipped to eighth place. The main products of its Thales InFlyt Experience unit in Irvine are in-flight entertainment and connectivity solutions.

### No. 1 Boeing

As for the top of the list, **Boeing Co.** held onto its unassailable first place even though its local headcount in Seal Beach and Huntington Beach dropped to an estimated 4,880 from an estimated 5,000 last year, the company felt the impact of the pandemic and

the temporary suspension of Boeing 737 flights.

**Parker Aerospace** counts 1,231 at its Irvine facility and ranks No. 6.

Its parent, **Parker Hannifin Corp.** (NYSE: PH), said last month it intends to buy U.K.-based **Meggitt PLC** in an \$8.8 billion deal.

Meggitt, which has two offices in Irvine, stayed at No. 11 though its headcount fell by 42 to 498.

Nano-satellite maker **Tyvak** in Irvine has been riding a wave of increased demand for ways to peer on planet Earth from outer space, increasing its headcount to 141 from 127 and moving up two places to No. 17.

**Steve Oswald**, chief executive of aerospace company **Ducommun Inc.** is optimistic about the firm’s prospects, which are tied to both the commercial and defense (see story, page 12). The company racked up a nearly 9% increase in second-quarter revenue and reached a key agreement with European airplane maker **Airbus**.

Ducommun fell three places to No. 24 as its OC headcount dipped to 82 in August from 117 the year before. Ducommun counts 2,428 employees companywide.

Small-satellite launch provider **Rocket Lab USA Inc.**, which in the past year migrated north from Huntington Beach to Long Beach and isn’t on this list, began trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker “RKLB” on Aug. 25. Its share price slipped about 10% on the company’s first day of trading following its SPAC merger with **Vector Acquisition Corp.** ■

**The LIST**  
Aerospace & Defense Contractors  
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## THE LIST AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CONTRACTORS



**CHRISTIAN BECKER**  
CEO  
Tyvak Nano-Satellite Systems Inc.



**ELIJAH DOBRUSIN**  
VP, Sales & Marketing, Leach  
TransDigm Group Inc.



**NAVEED HUSSAIN**  
CTO  
Boeing Co.



**PALMER LUCKEY**  
Founder  
Anduril Industries



**DAVID J. MEAD**  
CEO  
W. G. Holt Inc.

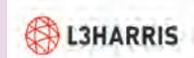


**KEN SAIN**  
CEO  
Panasonic Avionics Corp.

# THE LIST AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CONTRACTORS

► NEXT WEEK'S LISTS  
Medical Device Makers/Drugmakers

RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

| Rank  | Company<br>•Address<br>Rank   | Company logo  | OC employees<br>•yearly % change<br>OC sites | Companywide employees<br>•yearly % change | OC divisions/operations  | Partial list of products  | Partial list of clients  | Parent company<br>•Headquarters          | Top local official(s)<br>•Title<br>•Phone/fax   |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1   | <b>Boeing Co.</b><br>2201 Seal Beach Blvd.<br>(1) Seal Beach 90740-5603<br>Website: boeing.com  |    | 4,880 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA<br>2              | 141,014<br>-12%                           | Boeing engineering   | would not disclose  | Air Force, Army, Navy, NASA  | Boeing Co. Chicago                       | Naveed Hussain<br>CTO/VP, general manager, Boeing Research & Technology (562) 797-2020  |    |
| 2   | <b>Raytheon Technologies Corp.</b><br>1801 Hughes Drive<br>(4) Fullerton 92833-2200<br>Website: rtx.com<br>Email: corporatepr@rtx.com           |    | 2,000<br>0%<br>2                             | 180,000<br>-8%                            | 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 Waltham, Mass.     | Roy Azevedo<br>president, Raytheon Intelligence & Space (714) 446-3232  |    |
| 3   | <b>Panasonic Avionics Corp.</b><br>26200 Enterprise Way<br>(3) Lake Forest 92630-8400<br>Website: panasonic.aero<br>Email: sales@panasonic.aero |    | 1,980<br>-10%<br>1                           | 3,500 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA                | 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<br>CEO (949) 672-2000/(949) 462-7100   |    |
| 4   | <b>Safran</b><br>5701 Bolsa Ave.<br>(2) Huntington Beach 92647-2063<br>Website: safran-group.com  |   | 1,756<br>NA<br>6                             | 76,000<br>-17%                            | Safran Aerosystems, Safran Cabin, Safran Electronics & Defense   | Aircraft interiors, avionics, in-flight entertainment systems   | Airbus, Boeing, Embraer, Bombardier  | Safran S.A. Paris                        | Peter Lengyel<br>CEO/president, USA (714) 934-0000/(714) 934-0088   |   |
| 5   | <b>Precision Castparts Corp.</b><br>1224 E. Warner Ave.<br>(5) Santa Ana 92705-5414<br>Website: precast.com                                     |  | 1,380 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA<br>4              | 30,000 <sup>(1)</sup><br>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. Portland, Ore. | Daniel Strangio/DeAndre Hanson<br>general manager, Cherry Aerospace, SPS Technologies, Air Industries/director of sales, Shur-Lok (714) 545-5511/(714) 850-3605   |  |
| <div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">withum<sup>®</sup> More Than CPAs.</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Trusted Advisors Offering Smart Business Solutions <a href="https://www.withum.com/more-than-cpas" style="color: white;">Learn more at withum.com/more-than-cpas</a></p> </div> |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |   |
| 6   | <b>Parker Aerospace</b><br>14300 Alton Parkway<br>(9) Irvine 92618-1898<br>Website: parker.com  |  | 1,231<br>48%<br>2                            | 5,047<br>14%                              | Parker Aerospace Control Systems, Irvine; Parker Aerospace Fluid Systems, Irvine   | 787, A380, A350 XWB   | Government, Boeing, Airbus   | Parker Hannifin Corp. Cleveland          | Roger Sherrard<br>president (949) 833-3000  |  |
| 7   | <b>TransDigm Group Inc.</b><br>300 E. Cypress St.<br>(6) Brea 92821-4007<br>Website: transdigm.com<br>Email: ir@transdigm.com                   |  | 1,000 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA<br>5              | 14,200<br>-22%                            | 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/<br>Mike Rabjohn/John Binkley/Ron Kato<br>VP, sales & marketing, Leach/president, Kirkhill/president, Palomar Products/president, Adams Rite Aerospace/president, Hartwell (714) 529-4901 |  |
| 8   | <b>Thales Avionics Inc.</b><br>58 Discovery<br>(7) Irvine 92618-3105<br>Website: thalesgroup.com  |  | 900 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA<br>1                | 5,000 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA                | Thales InFlyt Experience   | In-flight entertainment systems   | Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, Bombardier  | Thales Group La Défense, France          | Philippe Carrette<br>CEO, InFlyt Experience (949) 790-2500/(949) 790-2998   |  |
| 9   | <b>L3Harris</b><br>901 E. Ball Road<br>(8) Anaheim 92805-5916<br>Website: l3harris.com  |  | 860<br>-2%<br>2                              | 47,000<br>-2%                             | 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.    | Rosemary Chapdelaine/Darryl Williams<br>VP, general manager/president (714) 956-9200  |  |
| 10  | <b>GKN PLC</b><br>12122 Western Ave.<br>(10) Garden Grove 92841-2915<br>Website: gknaerospace.com   |  | 672<br>NA<br>2                               | 15,000<br>NA                              | GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc., Garden Grove; GKN Aerospace Chemtronics Inc., Santa Ana   | Aerospace transparencies, sheetmetal engine components  | Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier   | Melrose Industries PLC Solihull, U.K.    | Diego Torres/Scott Gulyas<br>site director, Transparency Systems/site director, Chemtronics Inc. (714) 893-7531/(714) 897-1139  |  |
| 11  | <b>Meggitt PLC</b><br>9801 Muirlands Blvd.<br>(11) Irvine 92618-2521<br>Website: meggitt.com  |  | 498<br>-8%<br>2                              | 9,000<br>-10%                             | 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<br>president, Defense Systems/general manager, Sensing Systems (949) 465-7700  |  |
| 12  | <b>Anduril Industries</b><br>2722 Michelson Drive<br>(15) Irvine 92612-8905<br>Website: anduril.com<br>Email: contact@anduril.com               |  | 400<br>82%<br>1                              | 600<br>122%                               | Headquarters   | Detection and tracking towers, drones   | U.S. Govt.   | Anduril Industries Irvine                | Palmer Luckey<br>founder (949) 891-1607   |  |

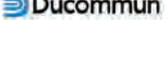
Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; NR: not ranked  
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top official listed.  
(1) Business Journal estimate

# THE LIST AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CONTRACTORS

► NEXT WEEK'S LISTS  
Medical Device Makers/Drugmakers

RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

| Rank       | Company  | Company logo  | OC employees             | Companywide employees    | OC divisions/operations                                   | Partial list of products   | Partial list of clients   | Parent company                                   | Top local official(s)   |   |
|------------|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Prev. Rank | •Address   |   | •yearly % change         | •yearly % change         |   |  |   | •Headquarters                                    | •Title  |   |
| Rank       |  |   | OC sites                 |                          |   |  |   |  | •Phone/fax  |   |
| 13         | <b>Howmet Fastening Systems</b><br>800 S. State College Blvd.<br>Fullerton 92831-5334<br>Website: howmet.com   |    | 380<br>-24%              | 20,000<br>-23%           | Howmet Fastening Systems                                  | Aerospace fasteners, fluid fittings, installation tools  | Boeing, General Electric Co., Pratt & Whitney   | Howmet Aerospace Inc. Pittsburgh                 | Jeremiah Greenwald<br>director of operations<br>(714) 871-1550                                  |    |
| 14         | <b>Applied Composites</b><br>25671 Commercentre Drive<br>Lake Forest 92630-8801<br>Website: appliedcomposites.com  |    | 350 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | 575 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | 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<br>CEO<br>(949) 716-3511/(949) 716-3566  |    |
| 15         | <b>Airborne Systems</b><br>3100 W. Segerstrom Ave.<br>Santa Ana 92704-5812<br>Website: airborne-sys.com  |    | 300 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | 500 <sup>(1)</sup><br>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<br>VP/general manager, Space & Recovery Group<br>(657) 859-3000/(714) 662-1586 |    |
| 16         | <b>Integral Aerospace LLC</b><br>2040 E. Dyer Road<br>Santa Ana 92705-5710<br>Website: integraeraerospace.com<br>Email: bmclean@integraeraero.com          |   | 156<br>-5%               | 156<br>-5%               | Integral Aerospace  | Aerospace landing gear, structures, aerial refueling systems, Composites and Composite assemblies  | Lockheed Martin, Sikorsky Aircraft, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, GE Aviation                         | Integral Aerospace LLC Santa Ana                 | John Alves/Bryan McLean<br>president/VP<br>(949) 250-3123                                       |   |
| 17         | <b>Tyvak Nano-Satellite Systems Inc.</b><br>15330 Barranca Parkway<br>Irvine 92618-2215<br>Website: tyvak.com  |  | 141<br>11%               | 189<br>8%                | Terrran Orbital, Tyvak, PredaSAR                          | Satellites   | Dept. of Defense, NASA  | Terran Orbital Corp. Irvine                      | Christian Becker<br>CEO<br>(949) 753-1020   |  |
| 18         | <b>B&amp;E Manufacturing</b><br>12151 Monarch St.<br>Garden Grove 92841-2927<br>Website: bandemfg.com  |  | 130 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | 130 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | B&E Manufacturing   | Manufacturer of aerospace hydraulic fittings, including flared, flareless, beam seal and radial swage fittings   | Boeing, Bombardier, Airbus, Lockheed, Embrear, General Dynamics, U.S. Govt. Defense Supply Agency | LISI Aerospace France                            | Larry Solinger<br>founder<br>(714) 898-2269/(714) 897-9179                                      |  |
| 19         | <b>Swift Engineering Inc.</b><br>1141 Via Callejon, Ste. A<br>San Clemente 92673-6230<br>Website: swiftengineering.com<br>Email: info@swiftengineering.com |  | 125 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | 125 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | Headquarters  | Advanced vehicles (UAVs, UAS, manned aircraft, spacecraft, submarines), robotics (artificial intelligence, telepresence), advanced control systems (autopilot systems, systems of autonomy, seek and avoid software) | Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrup Grumman   | Swift Engineering Inc. San Clemente              | Rick Heise<br>CEO/president<br>(949) 492-6608/(949) 366-8249                                    |  |
| 20         | <b>Marvin Test Solutions Inc.</b><br>1770 Kettering<br>Irvine 92614-5616<br>Website: marvintest.com<br>Email: info@marvintest.com                          |  | 101<br>-6%               | 981<br>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, Raytheon, Renesas   | Marvin Engineering Co. Irvine                    | Steve Sargeant/Loofie Gutterman<br>CEO/president<br>(949) 263-2222/(949) 263-1203               |  |
| 21         | <b>Cadence Aerospace LLC</b><br>3150 E. Miraloma Ave.<br>Anaheim 92806-1906<br>Website: cadenceaerospace.com<br>Email: info@cadenceaerospace.com           |  | 100<br>10%               | 900<br>-18%              | Headquarters  | Aviation components, subassemblies, repair   | Boeing, Spirit, Fokker, Gulfstream, Alatus  | Cadence Aerospace LLC Anaheim                    | Mike Fobar<br>VP, operations & programs<br>(949) 877-3630                                       |   |
| 21         | <b>Eaton Corp.</b><br>9650 Jeronimo Road<br>Irvine 92618-2024<br>Website: eaton.com/aerospace<br>Email: katiekennedy@eaton.com                             |  | 100 <sup>(1)</sup><br>NA | 85,000<br>-9%            | Eaton   | 787, A380, Joint Strike Fighter, CH53K   | Airbus, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman   | Eaton Corp. Dublin                               | Nanda Kumar<br>president, Aerospace Group<br>(949) 452-9500/(949) 452-9991                      |  |
| 23         | <b>Astronics Test Systems</b><br>4 Goodyear<br>Irvine 92618-2002<br>Website: astronics.com<br>Email: atsinfo@astronics.com                                 |  | 99<br>-6%                | 2,130<br>-8%             | 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<br>general manager<br>(949) 859-8999/(949) 859-7139                                   |  |
| 24         | <b>Ducommun Inc.</b><br>200 Sandpointe Ave., Ste. 700<br>Santa Ana 92707-5759<br>Website: ducommun.com<br>Email: rrogers@ducommun.com                      |  | 82<br>-30%               | 2,428<br>-5%             | Headquarters  | Black Hawk, 737, 787, A320   | Boeing, Airbus, Raytheon, United Technologies   | Ducommun Inc. Santa Ana                          | Stephen G. Oswald<br>chairman/CEO/president<br>(657) 335-3665                                   |  |
| 25         | <b>W. G. Holt Inc.</b><br>23351 Madero<br>Mission Viejo 92691-2730<br>Website: holtic.com<br>Email: info@holtic.com  |  | 80<br>0%                 | 82<br>0%                 | 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   | wnd   | Mission Viejo                                    | David J. Mead<br>CEO<br>(949) 859-8800/(949) 859-9643   |  |
| 26         | <b>Symbolic Displays Inc.</b><br>1917 St. Andrew Place E.<br>Santa Ana 92705-5143<br>Website: symbolicdisplays.com<br>Email: info@symbolicdisplays.com     |  | 76<br>1%                 | 76<br>1%                 | 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<br>CEO<br>(714) 258-2811/(714) 258-2810   |  |
| 27         | <b>Airworthy Inc.</b><br>1560 S. Harris Court<br>Anaheim 92806-5931<br>Website: airworthy.aero<br>Email: sales@airworthy.aero                              |  | 50<br>-17%               | 85<br>-32%               | 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<br>VP, sales and marketing<br>(714) 901-0660                                     |  |

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top official listed.  
<sup>(1)</sup> Business Journal estimate