Electrical Wiring Interconnect System: Zone-by-Zone Design Guide

A “Systems Approach” to Aircraft Interconnect Cabling
Commercial aircraft manufacturers treat large, interdependent equipment sets as systems: avionics, galleys, cabin lighting, HVAC, IFE, navigation, and so on. The systems are designed with performance benchmarks tied to the environmental stress factors of the different zones of the aircraft where they are used. The cables and harnesses that interconnect these equipment sets, the Electrical Wiring/Interconnect System (EWIS), is also now treated as a discrete system within the aircraft, subject to different requirements and specifications depending on the zones where it is located. In the past, the EWIS was treated more as an afterthought, with insufficient consideration given to best-practice design and zone-by-zone performance standards. The FAA, with the support of the principal aircraft manufacturers, has over the last several decades taken steps to change how interconnect technology is specified and managed. The key element of this effort was the move to treat wiring and associated interconnect components as a discrete system in its own right. The Electrical Wiring Interconnection System is now defined as: any wire, wiring device, or combination, including termination devices, installed in any area of the airplane, used to transmit electrical energy between two or more intended termination points.

EWIS Performance
Historically, wiring and interconnect components were installed in aircraft in a “fit and forget” manner—without sufficient thought given to different aging and degradation impacts on a zone-by-zone basis. While the FAA has always outlined the top-level variables in EWIS degradation including aging, physical properties, installation and environment, and maintenance, cleaning and repair, it is only recently that these environmental stress factors have been exactly evaluated according to aircraft zones. Service history shows it is not just the manner by which EWIS is installed that directly affects degradation, but more importantly material choices, environmental sealing components, EMC shielding technologies and so on that are geared for the unique stress factors found throughout the aircraft. Today’s EWIS designers use DO-160 Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment to ensure every element of the Electrical Wiring Interconnect System meets or exceeds requirements for vibration, shock, ground survival temperature, pressure differential, operating temperature, and moisture in each specific zone of the aircraft.

Designing, Installing and Repairing EWIS
Many factors identified by the FAA must be considered when designing, installing or repairing an Electrical Wire Interconnect System, as follows:

Electrical Load Determination
System designers must ensure that each aircraft electrical bus can safely support the load based on the electrical capacity of the aircraft’s electrical generators and distribution system. All electrical devices must be safely controlled or managed by the aircraft’s electrical system, and whenever a device is added, a load analysis should be performed to ensure that the new load on the bus can be powered adequately.

Wire Selection: Size, Substrate, Plating, and Insulation
Wires should be sized so that they have sufficient mechanical strength, do not exceed allowable voltage drop levels, are protected by circuit protection devices, and meet circuit current-carrying requirements. Small gauge wires should use high-strength alloy conductors and additional support at terminations (grommets, shrink sleeves, etc.) to minimize fatigue. Wires should be plated to defend against surface oxidation. Elevated temperature degradation of tin and silver-plated copper conductors will occur if they are exposed to continuous high-temperature operation.

While there is no “perfect” insulation system for aerospace wire and cable, the EWIS designer must consider the best balance of properties (electrical, mechanical, chemical, and thermal) for each application.

Determining Current-Carrying Capacity
EWIS designers must verify that the maximum ambient temperature wire bundles will be subjected to, plus the temperature rise due to wire current loads, does not exceed the maximum conductor temperature rating. In smaller harnesses, the allowable percentage of total current may be increased at the harness approaches the single wire configuration. Care should be taken to ensure that the continuous current value chosen for a particular system circuit does not create hot spots within any circuit element which could lead to premature failure.

Causes of EWIS Degradation
Vibration: High-vibration areas tend to accelerate degradation over time, resulting in “chattering” contacts and other intermittent problems. It can also cause tie-wraps to damage insulation, and exacerbate insulation cracking.
Moisture: High-moisture zones accelerate corrosion of interconnect components. EWIS installed in clear, dry areas with moderate temperatures hold up well.
Maintenance and repair: Improper maintenance techniques can contribute to EWIS degradation—for example, leaving metal shavings or debris behind after a repair. Wire bundles and connectors should be protected during modification work, and all debris must be cleaned up after work is completed. Generally, EWIS left undisturbed will have less degradation than rewired EWIS. As EWIS become more brittle with age, this effect becomes more pronounced. Repairs that conform to manufacturer’s recommended maintenance practices are generally considered permanent and should not require retwork if properly maintained.
Indirect damage: Events such as pneumatic duct ruptures can cause damage that, while not initially evident, can later cause EWIS problems. When such an event has occurred, surrounding EWIS should be carefully inspected to ensure no damage is evident.

Chemical contamination: Chemicals such as hydraulic fluid, fuel, waste system chemicals, cleaning agents, deicing fluids, and even soft drinks can contribute to EWIS degradation. EWIS in the vicinity of these chemicals should be inspected for damage or degradation. Hydraulic fluids, for example, are very damaging to connector grommet and wire bundle clamps, and can lead to indirect damage such as arcing and chafing. EWIS components potentially exposed to hydraulic fluid should be given special attention during inspections.
Heat: High heat can accelerate degradation, insulation dryness, and cracking. Even low levels of heat can degrade EWIS over long periods of time. This type of degradation can be seen on engines, in galleys, and behind lights.
Improper installation: Improper installation can accelerate degradation. Improper routing, clamping, and terminating during initial installation or during modifications can lead to EWIS damage. FAA policy states that installation and routing instructions should be completely defined in detail to allow repeatability of installation, not leaving installation to the discretion of the installer.
**Wire Substitution for Repairs and Maintenance**

EWIS manufacturers are required to perform rigorous qualification testing of wires. The original aircraft manufacturer (OEM) may have special concerns regarding shielding and insulation for certain wiring that performs critical functions, or wiring chosen based on a set of unique circumstances. It is important to review the aircraft maintenance manual or contact the OEM when wire replacement is required.

**EWIS Routing**

In general, EWIS should be routed and positioned to avoid chafing against aircraft structure or other components, to eliminate or minimize use as a handhold or support, to minimize exposure to damage by maintenance crews or shifting cargo, and to avoid exposure to corrosive fluids. Extra wire length should be supplied to allow for at least two re-terminations.

EWIS components must be protected in wheel wells and other areas where they may be exposed to damage from impact of rocks, ice, mud, etc.

Where practical, EWIS should be routed above fluid lines. Wires and cables routed within 6 inches of any flammable liquid, fuel, or oxygen line should be closely clamped and rigidly supported. The compression clamps should be spaced so that if there is a wire break, the broken wire will not contact hydraulic lines, oxygen lines, pneumatic lines, or other equipment whose subsequent failure caused by arcing could cause further damage.

For all types of wire breakouts—"Y", "T", and complex multi-branch—there should be sufficient slack in the breakout wires to avoid strain. Care should be taken when plastic tie wraps are used so that the tie wrap head does not cause chafing damage to the wire bundle at the breakout junction.

The EWIS design should preclude wire bundles from contacting the aircraft structure, using stand-offs to maintain clearance. Employing tape or protective tubing as an alternative to stand-offs should be avoided.

**Clamping and cable ties**

Clamps and cable ties must be constructed of appropriate materials for their installation environment. Clamps must be properly sized for their wire bundles, snug enough to prevent free movement and chafing, and not used where their failure could result in interference with crucial aircraft controls or movable equipment. Clamps must be installed with their attachment hardware positioned above them so they are unlikely to rotate as the result of wire bundle weight or wire bundle chafing. Wire bundles need to be routed perpendicular to clamps. Appropriate slack needs to be maintained between clamps to protect the wires from stress while keeping the bundle free from contacting the structure. Also, sufficient slack should be left between the last clamp and the termination or electrical equipment to prevent strain at the terminal.

**Wire Bend Radii**

The minimum radii of bends in wire groups or bundles must not be less than 10 times the outside diameter of the largest wire or cable, except that at the terminal strips where wires break out at terminations or reverse direction in a bundle. The bend radius for delicate thermocouple wires is 20 times the diameter, and for RF cables (e.g. coaxial and triaxial) is no less than 6 times the outside diameter of the cable.

**Unused Wires and Excess Wire**

Ensure unused wires are individually dead-ended, tied into a bundle, and secured to a permanent structure. Each wire should have strands cut even with the insulation and a pre-insulated closed end connector or a 1-inch piece of insulating tubing placed over the wire with its end folded back and tied.

Coil and stow methods are often used to secure excess length of a wire bundle or to secure unconnected spare bundles. The wire bundle must be secured to prevent excessive movement or contact with other equipment that could damage the EWIS. Coil and stow in medium and high vibration areas requires additional tie straps, sleeving, and support.

**Wire Splicing**

Improperly crimped splices can cause increased resistance, leading to overheating. Splicing should be kept to a minimum and avoided in high-vibration areas. Splicing of power wires, co-axial cables, multiplex bus, and large gauge wire should be avoided. Self-insulated splice connectors and environmentally-sealed AS7928 conformant splices are preferred. Splices should be located to permit inspection, and splices in bundles should be staggered so as to minimize any increase in the size of the bundle.

**Grounding and Bonding**

One of the more important factors in the design and maintenance of aircraft electrical systems is proper bonding and grounding—the process of electrically connecting conductive objects to a conductive structure or return path to complete a circuit. Inadequate bonding or grounding can lead to unreliable operation of systems, damage to sensitive electronics, shock hazard, or lightning strike damage. The design of the ground return circuit should be given as much attention as the other leads of a circuit.

Low impedance paths to aircraft structure are normally required for electronic equipment to provide radio frequency return circuits, and for most electrical equipment to facilitate EMI reduction. Component cases producing electromagnetic energy should be grounded to the structure.

All conducting objects on the exterior of the airframe must be bonded through mechanical joints, conductive hinges, or bond straps capable of conducting static charges and lightning strikes.

**EWIS Identification**

The proper identification of EWIS components with their circuits and voltages is necessary to provide safe operation and ease of maintenance. Each wire and cable should be marked with a part number and CAGE code so that it can be identified as to its performance capabilities, preventing the inadvertent use of lower performance and unsuitable replacement wire. Unmarked cables are more likely to be reconnected improperly which could cause numerous problems.

**Best Practices for EWIS**

The number and complexity of EWIS has resulted in an increased use of electrical connectors for flexibility and modular replacement of electrical equipment. The proper choice and application of connectors is a significant part of the aircraft EWIS systems. Connectors should be selected and installed to provide maximum safety and reliability to the aircraft.

- **The connector used for each application should be selected only after a careful determination of the electrical and environmental requirements.** Consider the size, weight, tooling, logistic, maintenance support, and compatibility with standardization programs.
- **Connectors susceptible to corrosion may be treated with a chemically inert waterproof jelly, or an environmentally-sealed connector may be used.**
- **Proper insertion and extraction tools should be used to install or remove wires from connectors.**
- **Connectors should be installed and calibrated to provide maximum safety and reliability to the aircraft.**
- **Consideration should be given to the design of the pin arrangement to avoid situations where pin-to-pin shorts could result in multiple loss of functions and/or power supplies.**
This interconnect design and application guide is broken down into traditional aircraft zones as defined in RTCA/DO-160. Interconnect technology for individual sections and equipment sets within each zone is presented in enough detail to enable EWIS designers to understand the broad range of options available and make sound specifications within each area of responsibility. Leveraging the talents of EWIS engineer Bob Johnson, Glenair has developed a number of Signature interconnect technologies for commercial aircraft, which are presented in the context of each zone.

To assist designers in the specification of appropriate interconnect components for use in each zone, each spread in this document presents applicable “DO-160, Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment,” and the Glenair interconnect technologies that meet or exceed these requirements. As application guidelines for key environmental stress factors including vibration, shock, ground survival temperature, pressure differential, operating temperature, and moisture can change with each zone, only those applicable specification references are noted.

Electrical Wiring Interconnect Systems
Aircraft Zones and Glenair Signature Series Interconnect Technologies

AIRCRAFT ZONES:
1. Fuselage
2. Instrument Panel Console and Equipment Rack
3. Nacelle and Pylon
4. Engine and Gear Box
5. Wing and Wheel Well
6. Landing Gear
7. Empennage and Vertical Stabilizer Tip
8. Cabin interior volume

ZONE 1: FUSELAGE
Pressurized Fluids - Condensation, Humidity
Typical Temperature Range -65° to +95°C
Moderate Dynamic Vibration Range
Flammability, Smoke, and Toxicity Requirements

ZONE 2: INSTRUMENT PANEL, CONSOLE, AND EQUIPMENT RACK
Pressurized Fluids - Condensation, Humidity
Typical Temperature Range -65° to +95°C
Moderate Dynamic Vibration Range
Flammability, Smoke, and Toxicity Requirements

ZONE 3: NACELLE AND PYLON
Dynamic Vibration Environment
Extreme Temperature Range -65° to +200°C
Firewall
Fuels and Fluids

ZONE 4: ENGINE AND GEAR BOX
Dynamic Vibration Environment
Extreme Temperature Range -65° to +200°C
Firewall
Fuels and Fluids

ZONE 5: WING AND WHEEL WELL
High Vibration
Extreme Temperature Range -55° to +200°C
De-Icing Exposure
Wide Pressure Changes

ZONE 6: LANDING GEAR
High Vibration
Extreme Temperature Range -55° to +150°C
Fluid Exposure
Wide Pressure Changes

ZONE 7: EMPENNAGE AND VERTICAL STABILIZER TIP
High Vibration
Extreme Temperature Range -55° to +200°C
De-Icing Exposure
Wide Pressure Changes

ZONE 8: CABIN INTERIOR VOLUME
Pressurized Fluids - Condensation, Humidity
Typical Temperature Range -65° to +95°C
Moderate Dynamic Vibration Range
Flammability, Smoke, and Toxicity Requirements

DO-160, ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND TEST PROCEDURES FOR AIRBORNE EQUIPMENT AND AIRCRAFT ZONES
Effective EWIS design is best accomplished by aligning DO-160, Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment, with the empirical environmental performance levels targeted for each zone, section, and equipment set on the aircraft.

CATALOG VERSUS CUSTOM / TAILORED TECHNOLOGIES
This design guide primarily presents proven-performance electrical interconnect technologies that can be sourced directly from catalog offerings. This includes the Bob Johnson signature series technologies which are highlighted for each zone. Designers looking to resolve long-standing problems or improve performance in such areas as size, weight, and power frequently turn to custom / tailored solutions. In both events, selections must be aligned with Federal Aviation Administration 14 CFR 25.1701 which states that EWIS components must be of a kind and design appropriate to its intended function and perform the function for which it was intended without degrading the airworthiness of the airplane. Responsibility for these determinations resides with the aircraft manufacturer.

AIRCRAFT ZONES: MACRO ENVIRONMENTS
Significant variability exists between the various macro environments of a modern commercial aircraft (dynamic stimulus, moisture, humidity, thermal extremes, and so on). Environmental stress factors place a demand on the electrical interconnect components that must perform for the expected life of 20 years. Macro environments range from the cabin interior—where the challenge is mainly moisture / humidity—to extreme unpressurized zones such as wing and wheel wells where extreme dynamic stimuli combined with thermal extremes can rapidly degrade the performance and life expectancy of interconnect technologies.
ELECTRICAL CONTACTS / SEALING CONTACTS • Suitable for use in Aircraft Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

ULTRAMINIATURE CIRCULARS • Suitable for use in Aircraft Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

MIL-AERO CIRCULARS • Suitable for use in Aircraft Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

HIGH-SPEED DATALINK CONNECTORS • see below for zone designators

FIBER OPTICS • Suitable for use in Aircraft Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

POWER CONNECTORS AND PRESSURE BOUNDARY FEEDTHRU • see below for zone designators

EMI/RFI BRAIDED SHIELDING AND PROTECTIVE COVERING • Suitable for use in Aircraft Zones 1 – 8

CONNECTOR BACKSHELLS AND ACCESSORIES • Suitable for use in Aircraft Zones 1 – 8

SPECIAL-PURPOSE EWIS TECHNOLOGIES • see below for zone designators

Qualified Glenair Interconnect Technologies for Aircraft Electrical Wiring Interconnect Systems
Organized by type with zone designators
Fuselage Mid-Wing
Forward barrel section plus center section and aft-of-wing barrel section (pressurized passenger / crew cabin)

The main passenger cabin, crew and galley areas are housed in the fuselage mid-wing. This pressurized zone is characterized by moderate environmental stress factors such as fluid condensation, humidity, temperatures in the -65° to +95°C range, and moderate dynamic vibration. The electrical wiring interconnect system utilizes mostly conventional interconnect technology, with an emphasis on general weight reduction, reliability, and speed-of-assembly. Production breaks are a significant challenge for the EWIS engineer, with cost control of interconnect interfaces a principal design requirement. The pressurized interface between the mid-wing fuselage and the wings requires careful attention in the specification and use of pressure bulkhead feedthrus.

Glenair SpliceSaver™
- Crimp wire termination solution saves time and labor over manual DO150 splicing
- Ideally suited for crown and floor wiring in Zone 1
- Three versions: single-piece, Spiralock®, and bussed
- Features Stinger™ crimp contact technology with integrated retention mechanism
- Small form-factor and lightweight composite
- Supports 1-3 wire terminations

Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 1: Fuselage Mid-Wing
- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III +
- SuperSeal™ RJ45 and USB 2.0
- MIL-DTL 38999 Series III Fiber Optics
- Series 806 Mil-Aero High-Performance Ultraminiature
- Series 806 Mil-Aero Fiber Optics
- AS39029 signal / high-speed contacts / El Ochito®
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Connector protective covers
- Swing-Arm FLEX® composite backshells
- Advanced rectangular aviation backshells
- Series 806 Mil-Aero nut plates
- Band-Master ATS® shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- MasterWrap™ side-entry EMI/RFI shielding
- SpliceSaver™ connectors
- PowerLoad™ connectors and bulkhead feedthrus
- Pressure seal bulkhead fittings
- Hermetic connectors
SpliceSaver™ is an innovative interconnect technology developed by Glenair for use in aircraft wiring operations that rely on heat shrink splicing of aircraft signal, sensor, and data transmission wiring. Single-piece SpliceSaver designs allow remote harness assembly facilities to pre-terminate each line with a crimp-and-poke contact. During aircraft wire harness installation, cabling is routed to interconnection points and the contact-equipped wires are quickly and easily installed into the lightweight single-piece SpliceSaver connector. Two-piece Spiralock® SpliceSaver designs enable the harness facility to terminate wires to the small form-factor, lightweight “connector” for subsequent mating on the aircraft. A special bussed version is also available. All SpliceSaver styles feature integrated banding platforms for the termination of EMI shielding utilizing qualified banding technology—one-piece design features three platforms for termination at both ends and in the center. Compared to legacy terminal blocks and wire splice technology, SpliceSaver offers faster, cleaner, and more reliable routing and termination of discrete wiring.

- Lightweight construction
- Conductive (plated) or non-conductive versions
- Crimp contact technology: front release/rear removal
- Three to nineteen circuits per unit
- Environmentally sealed
- Full-mate indicator
- Replaces labor-intensive terminal blocks and splices

SpliceSaver™ Specifications

Altitude immersion: 75,000 ft.

Dielectric Withstanding Voltage Ratings:
- 22AWG = 5 amps/contact
- 20AWG = 7.5 amps/contact

Material and finish options:
- Cadmium-plated aluminum
- Nickel-plated aluminum
- Nickel-plated brass

SpliceSaver™ Weight Analysis

Receptacle connector: 1.6 grams including contacts and seals
Plug connector: 1.66 grams including contacts and seals
Total connector mass: 5.66 grams (all contact locations installed)

Accessories: Add the variable mass of two or three nano bands trimmed to length of grooves in the split sleeve.
The instrument panel console and equipment rack zone of the aircraft, Zone 2, is housed within the forward section of the fuselage. Zone 2 has the most diverse range of interconnect technologies found in the aircraft, meeting a diverse set of application and performance requirements. This section includes the flight deck with its extensive set of avionic displays, control panels, communication equipment, data uplink and downlink interfaces, antennae, and so on. These equipment sets interface with the avionics and flight management computers located in the lower part of the forward fuselage in the equipment bay. The equipment bay also hosts power panels and power conversion panels located adjacent to the equipment racks. This section of the aircraft may also contain a galley, depending on airline configuration.

**Zone 2 Application Guidelines**

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**Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 2: Instrument Panel Console and Equipment Rack**

- MIL-DTL-38999 Series III QPL
- SuperSeal™ RJ45 and USB 2.0
- MIL-DTL 38999 Series III Fiber Optics
- Series 806 Mil-Aero High-Performance Ultraminiature
- Series 806 Mil-Aero Fiber Optics
- Series 79 ultraminiature crimp rectangulars
- AS39029 electrical contacts
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Connector protective covers
- Swing-Arm FLEX® composite backshells
- Advanced rectangular aviation backshells
- ArmorLite™ shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- MasterWrap™ side-entry EMI/RFI shielding
- SpliceSaver™ connectors
- PowerLoad™ connectors and bulkhead feedthrus
- Pressure seal bulkhead fittings
- Hermetic connectors
GateLink Pro™
High-Speed Data Uplink Connector

Environmentally-sealed breakaway design for high-speed data transfer between terminal gate and aircraft

GateLink Pro™ connectors are exactingly designed to meet the needs of airport terminal-to-aircraft data uplinks. The IP68 sealed receptacle connector on the aircraft is designed for low profile environmental performance (available ProSeal™ protective cover adds additional environmental protection). Plug connectors are ruggedized for rough handling with pogo pin contacts and retention springs recessed deep into the plug to prevent damage. Designed for fast and reliable high-speed Ethernet data transfer up to 1Gb / second. Turnkey overmolded cable assemblies as well as discrete connectors and environmental shrink boots are available.

- Durable pogo pin contact system rated to tens of thousands mating cycles
- Sealed receptacle available with ProSeal spring-action protective cover
- Straight or right-angle AutoShrink wire protection boots or rugged overmolded plug assemblies for reliable environmental protection

GATELINK PRO APPLICATIONS AND SOLUTIONS
Wired datalink interconnect access to the aircraft from the airline terminal gate supports various information domains and data types including aircraft traffic control, airline information services, passenger entertainment, weather, and so on. Airline operating center applications (flight plans, schedules, advisories) are quickly and reliably uploaded to the aircraft during turnarounds at the gate. Mechanical and environmental damage to the datalink interface is a common problem solved by GateLink Pro.

GATELINK PRO SPECIFICATIONS
- Voltage rating: 500 VAC
- Current rating: 5 amps
- Contact resistance: 20 milliohms maximum
- Plug-to-receptacle ground resistance: < 5 milliohms
- Maximum wire size: #24 AWG
- Insulation resistance: 5000 megohms min.
- Water immersion: MIL-STD-810 Method 512, one meter for one hour
- Durability: 2000 mating cycles
- Corrosion resistance: 1000 hours
- Vibration: MIL-STD-810 Method 516.6, one meter for one hour
- Random vibration: MIL-STD-810 Method 516.5, one meter for one hour
- Shock: MIL-STD-810 Method 516.5, one meter for one hour
- EMI shielding effectiveness: 50 dB minimum to 10 GHz

GATELINK PRO AVAILABLE ACCESSORIES
- Anti-vibration and shock spring-action solution • Self-aligning environmental seals

AutoShrink is a high-performance elastomeric material (Glenair Duralec™ formula polymer GPS67) cold-action shrink boot and jacket solution for commercial aerospace electrical wire interconnect systems.
**ZONE 3**

**Nacelle and Pylon**

Immediate adjacency to engine and gear box plus wing and wheel well

This zone of the aircraft experiences high vibration, heat, frequent maintenance cycles, and susceptibility to chemical contamination. There are critical variable temperature zones within the engine cowling. Typically, the region around the fan is cooler, with temperatures in the range of 85°–95°C. Aft of the fan, temperatures increase dramatically. Design coordination with the aircraft manufacturer is required for all EWIS technologies routed in and out of the nacelle and via the pylon.

**Firewall and Pressure Boundary Feed-Thrus**

- High-grade engineering thermoplastic or machined metal
- Solid and split-shell versions
- Ideally suited for pressure, vapor, and firewall bulkheads throughout the aircraft including Zone 3
- O-ring sealed panel and box mounting interface
- Conductive and non-conductive finish options

**Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 3: Nacelle and Pylon**

- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III +
- MIL-DTL-38999 Series III Fiber Optics
- Series 806 Mil-Aero Fiber Optics
- AS39029 electrical contacts
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Connector protective covers

- Swing-Arm composite and SS backshells
- Band-Master ATS® shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- PowerLoad™ connectors and bulkhead feedthrus
- Firewall / pressure-seal feed-thrus
- Hermetic connectors
Versatile cable feed-thrus for pressure, vapor, and firewall applications

FAA qualified pressure-boundary feed-thrus for high temperature and vapor seal applications including jet engine firewalls

Glenair is the go-to design partner for innovative solutions to electrical wire interconnect system problems in airframe applications. Our backshell and connector accessory design engineers are responsible for more problem-solving innovation in our industry than every other connector accessory supplier combined. Take our new firewall and pressure boundary feed-thrus, for example. Available in both one-piece and split-shell designs, these FAA-qualified cable feed-thrus provide fast, trouble-free installation and life-of-system performance. Solid and split insulators add additional flexibility in installation. All designs supplied for “D” panel cutout profiles with jam nut attachments and O-rings for reliable fitting-to-bulkhead sealing.

High-grade engineering thermoplastic or machined metal
Wide range of pressure-boundary feed-thru layouts with accommodation for 1 – 6 cables
Split-shell jam nut versions with EMI/RFI shield termination porch
O-ring sealed panel and box mounting interface

Available insulator types: Solid (left) and Solid (right)
Insert arrangements shown for hole location only. Size is not to scale. Consult factory for dimensional details and order information.
If...

123 = 18
233 = 24
132 = 12
532 = 20
then 142 = ?

What is the word?

Find the missing number

Find the mistake...

what are the number values for each shape?

Which of the numbers are reversed?

Which tank will fill up first?

Solve the puzzle. A, B, C, or D?

One of the spirals is made from one continuous rope, joined at the ends. The other is made from two separate pieces. Which is which?
GLENAIR

Components exposed to high heat can experience accelerated degradation, insulation dryness, and cracking. Direct contact with a high-heat source can quickly damage insulation. Even lower levels of engine and gearbox heat can degrade the EWIS over time. Standard-construction cable harnesses used for interconnection of FADEC equipment or in areas of Zone 5 not in direct contact with the engine may incorporate material types capable of withstanding operating temperatures up to 200°C. Aircraft manufacturers prefer stainless steel connectors and accessories, and cabling shielded with temperature-resistant metallic braid. EWIS cabling transitioning from the engine and gearbox into the adjacent nacelle and pylon zone require pressure and temperature boundary sealing.

**Zone 4 Application Guidelines**

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**PowerLoad™ Connectors**

- High-vibe, high-temp, high-density power connector series
- Ideally suited for backup generators in Zone 4 as well as power transmission throughout the aircraft
- Low-resistance contact delivers lower temperature rise under load
- Removable wire sealing grommet and wire separator for easy rear release of contacts and improved sealing of tape-wrapped wire

**Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 4: Engine and Gear Box**

- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III+
- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III + Fiber Optics
- Series 806 Mil-Aero ultraminiature
- AS39029 electrical contacts
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Connector protective covers
- Swing-Arm composite and SS backshells
- Band-Master ATS® shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- PowerLoad™ connectors and bulkhead feedthrus
- Pressure seal bulkhead fittings
- Hermetic connectors
- Indirect lightning strike HST Sleeves
- AutoShrink™ cold-action shrink tubing and boots
ZONE 5

Wing and Wheel Well
An unpressurized, harsh environmental zone

Wing leading and trailing edges are harsh environments for EWIS installations. EWIS wire harnesses in this zone are exposed on some aircraft models whenever the flaps or slats are extended. Other potential sources of mechanical damage include strut torque shafts and bleed air ducts.

Wheel wells are also subject to severe external environmental stress factors including impact damage from rocks, ice, and mud, as well as from vibration and chemical contamination. Adequate protection of EWIS cabling in these areas includes shielding, jacketing, and in some applications, enclosure in metal-core or polymer-core conduit.

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<td>Shock</td>
<td>DO-160 Category D, Test Procedure 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ground Survival Temperature</td>
<td>-65° to 200°C, DO-160 Category D3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pressure Differential</td>
<td>Sea level to 50kft, DO-160 Category D3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Temperature</td>
<td>-5° to 20°C, DO-160 category D3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture</td>
<td>Exposure to humidity and condensation, DO-160 Category B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 5: Wing and Wheel Well

- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III +
- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III + Fiber Optics
- Series 806 Mil-Aero High-Performance Ultraminiature
- AS39029 electrical contacts
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Swing-Arm FLEX® composite backshells
- Advanced rectangular aviation backshells

Glenair standard and signature interconnect technologies

- Band-Master ATS® shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- Pressure seal bulkhead fittings
- Hermetic connectors
- Indirect lightning strike HST Sleeves
- Polymer and Metal-Core Conduit

Series 806 Mil-Aero

- Series 806 Mil-Aero: Advanced-performance ultraminiature circular connector
- Ideally suited for all unpressurized aircraft zones including Zone 5
- One-to-one equivalent performance to MIL-DTL-38999 Series III, including high-altitude immersion and DWV
- Outstanding anti-decoupling performance, even in small shell sizes

Series 806 Mil-Aero: Advanced-performance ultraminiature circular connector

- One-to-one equivalent performance to MIL-DTL-38999 Series III
- High-altitude immersion and DWV
- Outstanding anti-decoupling performance, even in small shell sizes
- Significant size and weight savings compared to MIL-DTL-38999 Series III
Advanced performance, reduced size and weight connector series IAW MIL-DTL-38999

Series 806 offers significant size and weight savings while meeting key performance benchmarks for a broad range of applications such as commercial and military aerospace, robotics, transportation, and more. Designed for general use in harsh vibration, shock, and environmental settings—as well as high-altitude, unpresurized aircraft zones with aggressive voltage ratings and altitude immersion standards—the Series 806 Mil-Aero features numerous design innovations including durable mechanical insert retention, radial seals and triple-ripple grommet seals. Its reduced thread pitch and re-engineered ratchet prevent decoupling problems, particularly in small shell sizes, solving one of the major problems of shell size 9 and 11 MIL-DTL-38999 Series III connectors.

SAVE SIZE AND WEIGHT WITH SERIES 806 CONNECTORS

Series 806 Mil-Aero Small Size
- .500 In. Mating Threads 3 #20 Contacts or 7 #22 contacts
- .625 In. Mating Threads 3 #20 Contacts or 8 #22 contacts

SERIES 806 MIL-AERO: FEATURES / SPECIFICATIONS

- High-density #20HD and #22HD arrangements for reduced size and weight
- Supported wire sizes: #20HD contacts 20–24 AWG #22HD contacts 22–28AWG
- Dielectric withstand voltage #20HD layouts: 1800 Vac #22HD layouts: 1300 Vac
- Reduced pitch triple-start modified anti-decoupling stub ACME mating threads
- +200°C operating temperature
- “Triple ripple” wire sealing grommet (75,000 ft. rated)
- Snap in, rear release crimp contacts
- Metal contact retention clips
- Integral Nano-Band shield termination platform
- EMI shielding effectiveness per D38999M para. 4.5.28 (65 dB min. leakage attenuation @ 10GHz)
- 10,000 amp indirect lightning strike
- MIL-S-901 Grade A high impact shock

AVAILABLE LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINUM “CODE RED” HERMETICS

CODE RED is a lightweight encapsulant sealing and application process with 50% package-weight savings compared to glass-to-metal seal Kovar/stainless steel solutions. Non-outgassing CODE RED IAW NASA/ESA provides durable hermetic and vapor sealing with better than 1X10^-7 leak rate performance. Gold-plated copper contacts deliver outstanding low-resistance current carrying capacity.

SMALLER AND LIGHTER WITH EQUAL D38999 PERFORMANCE?

- High-Density Layouts Twice as many contacts in a smaller package
- “Top Hat” Insulator High voltage rating, footproof alignment
- Triple Ripple Wire Seal Reliable 75,000 ft. altitude immersion
ZONE 6

Landing Gear
An unpressurized, harsh environment zone

Commercial airplanes use a nose landing gear and two main landing gears. The nose gear has the steering function, and typically a junction box located midway down the landing gear itself. The main landing gear has an extensive amount of wiring that interfaces with wheel speed sensors, antilock braking equipment, and electric brake systems. The area is exposed to severe external environmental conditions in addition to vibration and chemical contamination. EWIS harnesses interconnecting the landing gear are hardened against impact from rocks, ice, and mud, and may be housed within special metal-core or polymer core conduit.

### Zone 6 Application Guidelines

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<th>Applicable RTCA/DO-160 Requirements</th>
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<td>Ground Survival Temperature</td>
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<td>Pressure Differential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Temperature</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture</td>
<td>Exposure to humidity and condensation; driving rain, de-icer, hydraulic fluids, fuel; EIA-364-10 with the fluids defined in DO-160 Table 11-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Landing gear environment must be coordinated with airplane manufacturer for specific dynamic environment definition.*

#### Turnkey Wire Protection Assemblies for Wheel Sensor and Braking Systems
- FAA qualified flexible polymer and metal-core conduit materials
- Ideally suited for rugged aircraft zones including Zone 2
- Impact-resistant and immune to chemical contamination
- Integrated overbraiding for added strength and EMI/RFI immunity

#### Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 6: Landing Gear
- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III +
- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III + Fiber Optics
- AS39029 electrical contacts
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Swing-Arm composite and SS backshells
- Advanced rectangular aviation backshells
- Band-Master ATS® shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- Pressure seal bulkhead fittings
- Hermetic connectors
- Metal- and Polymer-Core Conduit assemblies
- Indirect lightning strike HST Sleeves

Nose Landing Gear
Electric Feedthru and Pressure Seals

Main Landing Gear
Electric Brakes, Wheel Speed Sensors / Antilock
Wired metal and polymer-core conduit assemblies
Conduit components and wired assemblies with innovative polymer and metal-core wire protection materials

All of the metal-core conduit and polymer-core convoluted tubing systems we fabricate at Glenair may be wired and assembled at our factory with tamper-proof crimp ring or solder terminations according to customer requirements. Reduced size and weight factory terminated conduit assemblies offer the utmost in environmental ruggedness, reliability and durability. Certified factory assemblers and calibrated tooling guarantee reliable long-term performance. Glenair’s expertise in wired conduit systems extends from simple point-to-point jumpers to complex multibranch assemblies as well as turnkey integrated systems and LRUs with flexible conduit interconnect cabling.

ZONE 6 FEATURED TECHNOLOGY
Conduit Wire Protection Systems
Flexible, impact resistant alternatives to lighter-duty jacketed cable assemblies

TURNKEY FACTORY-TERMINATED CONDUIT ASSEMBLIES

Complex multibranch aircraft electrical wire conduit assembly with high-temperature polymer-core conduit
Lightweight multibranch wire protection conduit assembly with high-temperature polymer-core convoluted tubing
Crush-resistant commercial aerospace metal-core conduit assembly

ZONE 6 FEATURED TECHNOLOGY
Conduit Wire Protection Systems
Flexible, impact resistant alternatives to lighter-duty jacketed cable assemblies

TURNKEY FACTORY-TERMINATED CONDUIT ASSEMBLIES

Complex multibranch aircraft electrical wire conduit assembly with high-temperature polymer-core conduit
Lightweight multibranch wire protection conduit assembly with high-temperature polymer-core convoluted tubing
Crush-resistant commercial aerospace metal-core conduit assembly
The empennage, also known as the tail or tail assembly, is a structure at the rear of an aircraft that houses the horizontal and vertical stabilizers, which provide yaw and pitch stability to the aircraft during flight. EWIS cabling interconnecting flight controls, transitions via the aft pressure bulkhead, which protects the cabin interior volume. An Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) and firewall is also located within the tail assembly and is serviced with a broad range of both power as well as signal cabling.

### Zone 7 Application Guidelines

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<tr>
<td>Moisture</td>
<td>Exposure to humidity and condensation; DO-160 Category B</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Swing-Arm® and Swing-Arm Flex

- Lightweight composite or stainless steel strain relief and EMI shield termination backshell
- Ideally suited for use throughout the aircraft including Zone 7
- Versatile 3-in-1 cable routing solution
- Shield termination options for overall as well as individual wire shielding
- Innovative drop-in follower designs

### Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 7: Empennage and Vertical Stabilizer Tip

- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III +
- SuperNine® MIL-DTL-38999 Series III + Fiber Optics
- Series 806 Mil-Aero High-Performance Ultraminiature
- AS39029 electrical contacts
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Swing-Arm composite and SS backshells
- Advanced rectangular aviation backshells
- Series 806 Mil-Aero nut plates

- Band-Master ATS® shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- MasterWrap™ side-entry EMI/RFI shielding
- PowerLoad™ connectors and bulkhead feedthrus
- Pressure seal bulkhead fittings
- Hermetic connectors
- SpliceSaver™ connectors
- Indirect lightning strike HST Sleeves
Glenair’s composite Swing-Arm® strain relief backshell is a lightweight and corrosion-free cable clamp with cable shield termination options for a wide range of EWIS applications. This innovative backshell has become the standard shield termination device for weight reduction in military and commercial airframe applications. Made from temperature-tolerant composite thermoplastic, rugged Swing-Arm® backshells offer easy installation, long-term performance, and outstanding weight and SKU reduction. Performance tested to stringent AS85049 mechanical and electrical standards and available for all commonly-specified mil-standard and commercial cylindrical connectors including MIL-DTL-38999 and Glenair Series 806 Mil-Aero connectors.

Introducing Swing-Arm FLEX®, Glenair Next-Generation Composite Swing-Arm® Strain Relief
- Significant weight reduction: no saddle bars or hardware
- Rapid assembly: cable self-centers on bundle, little or no wrapping tape required
- Braid sock and drop-in band termination follower versions for EMI/RFI applications
- Internal conductive ground path

Swing-Arm 3-in-1 lightweight composite or stainless steel strain-relief and EMI/RFI shield termination backshell

Three Styles of Swing-Arm Strain Relief Clamps
- Style A - standard mouth, rigid saddle bars
- Style B - wide mouth (for larger cable diameters), rigid saddle bars
- Style C Swing-Arm FLEX - no saddle bars, self-centering round cable strain relief

Zone 7 Featured Technology
SWING-ARM VERSATILITY: FROM SIMPLE CABLE STRAIN RELIEF TO EMI/RFI SHIELD TERMINATION
- Style A - standard mouth, rigid saddle bars
- Style B - wide mouth (for larger cable diameters), rigid saddle bars
- Style C Swing-Arm FLEX - no saddle bars, self-centering round cable strain relief

Drop-in Follower for Direct Termination of Overall or Individual Wire Shielding
- Two drop-in-follower designs, solid and slotted are available for all Swing-Arm styles (A, B, and C).

Swing-Arm and Swing-Arm FLEX with Optional Integrated Shield Sock
- For fast and reliable EMI/RFI shield termination of individual wire and overall cable shielding
- Termination of shield sock to individual wire shields with auxiliary “flex shield” HST and StarShield™ Star
- Termination of shield sock to cable shield with split support ring

Stainless Steel Swing-Arm versions ideally suited for extreme temperature range applications

User-configurable straight, 45°, and 90° cable routing

Termination of shield sock to cable shield with split support ring

For fast and reliable EMI/RFI shield termination of individual wire and overall cable shielding
ZONE 8
Cabin Interior Volume
Pressurized zone with flammability, smoke, and toxicity requirements

Commercial airplane interior volume encompasses passenger seating, electronically controlled dimmable windows, passenger service units, galleys, lavatories, emergency lighting, in-flight entertainment, seat power, and other electrical power applications. Strict requirements must be adhered to regarding use of materials that contain halogens or other toxic elements to ensure passenger safety in the event of a fire.

Zone 8 Application Guidelines

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<th>Environmental Stress Factors</th>
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<td>Pressure Differential</td>
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<td>Operating Temperature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moisture</td>
<td>Exposure to Humidity and condensation (DO-160 Category B)</td>
</tr>
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Qualified Glenair Technologies for Zone 8: Cabin Interior Volume
- MIL-DTL-38999 Series III QPL
- SuperSeal™ RJ45 and USB 2.0
- MIL-DTL-38999 Series III Fiber Optics
- Series 806 Mil-Aero High-Performance Ultraminiature
- Series 806 Mil-Aero Fiber Optics
- AS39029 signal / high-speed contacts
- DCSP Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs
- ProSeal™ spring-action protective covers
- Advanced rectangular aviation backshells
- Connector protective covers
- Swing-Arm FLEX® composite backshells
- Band-Master ATS® shield termination system
- ArmorLite™ lightweight microfilament EMI/RFI braid
- ArmorLite™ ground straps
- MasterWrap™ wraparound EMI/RFI shielding
- SpliceSaver™ connectors
- Hermetic connectors
- Polymer-Core Conduit

Cabin Interior Volume
GLENAIR standard and signature interconnect technologies

Crown Wiring Interface to Interior Volume
IFE, Passenger Lighting, Cabin Audio System, Oxygen System, Passenger Services

Below Passenger Floor Wiring
Floor Lighting, Window Controls, IFE

Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs (DCSP)
- For reliable sealing of unused contact cavities—without the use of electrical contacts
- Ideally suited for Zone 8
- Powerful tool in EWIS weight reduction
- Leverages connector contact clip for secure retention of the sealing plug—no FOD
- Easy-to-install single piece design
- Visible quality control / confirmation of cavity fill from back of connector
- EWIS compliant test report available, ref. GT 15-106
For reliable sealing of unused contact cavities—without the use of electrical contacts

The use of color-coded M22448 type plastic sealing plugs in unused contact cavities is a requirement in all environmental interconnect applications (IAW NA01-1A-505-1, WP 007 00 or 020 00). Conventional sealing plugs, combined with the connector grommet seal, provide reliable dust and moisture ingress protection. But common contact sealing plugs still require that a properly-sized electrical contact be first inserted into the cavity, followed by the plastic plug. Glenair innovative Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs (DCSP) eliminate the need to use expensive electrical contacts as part of the sealing regimen. Fast and easy-to-install, these longer form-factor Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs (DCSP) are a one-piece solution to contact cavity sealing that results in significant weight reduction, material cost reduction, and assembly labor.

Available in Size #22 to Size #8, for connector series D38999, EN4165, Series 800 Mighty Mouse, EN4644 and ARINC 600, Glenair Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs reduce weight as much as 90% compared to conventional contact/sealing plug configurations.

**Powerful tool in Electrical Wire Interconnect System weight reduction**

**Eliminates use of expensive electrical contacts for sealing-only applications**

**Leverages connector contact clip for secure retention of the sealing plug—no FOD**

**Easy-to-install single piece design**

**Visible quality control / confirmation of cavity fill from back of connector**

**EWIS compliant test report GT TS-106 available**

**ZONE 8 FEATURED TECHNOLOGY**

**Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs (DCSP)**

For reliable sealing of unused contact cavities
Saves cost and weight throughout the EWIS

**INSTALLATION OF DUMMY CONTACTS**

1. Insert Dummy Contacts into unused contact cavities.
   A. Dummy Contacts may be installed using contact insertion tool, needle nose pliers or by hand (space permitting).
   B. Isopropyl alcohol may be used to facilitate insertion of Dummy Contacts.
2. Push Dummy Contact into cavity until flange locks into contact retention clip.
3. Attempt to pull Dummy Contact from connector body to ensure full retention.
   **Important note:** Size #22 Dummy Contacts in 38999 socket cavities
4. Dummy Contact shall only be inserted into cavity far enough to engage retention clip.
5. Pull Contact back for maximum tail exposure.

**Illustration shows conventional sealing plug / contact configuration (top) and long form-factor Dummy Contact Sealing Plugs (bottom).**

**connector series / size / color code / part number selection**

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<tr>
<th>Connector Series</th>
<th>Crimp Removable Contact Cavity Size</th>
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<tr>
<td>D38999 Series I, III, IV</td>
<td>23 22 20 16 12 8 8 w/ Boot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mighty Mouse Mil-Aero</td>
<td>680-120-22HD 680-120-32HD</td>
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Available Steering Wheel

One of my colleagues at Glenair is in the market for a new car and, unlike me, is genuinely interested in a self-driving or at least semi-autonomous vehicle. I suppose that someday climbing into an automobile with no operator will seem no different than say, climbing aboard a driverless metro train or—looking back even farther in time—into an elevator with no human operator. But one's outlook in life is unavoidably a product of experience and circumstance. Which is why our (okay, my) nervous system is anchored in a time and place where cars without steering wheels exist in nightmares, not out on the Southern California freeways.

Being in the interconnect industry, we get exposed to all kinds of next-generation technology—a great deal of which will be put to use to realize the dream of driverless cars. And yes, I accept that GPS, radar, LIDAR, sonar, and other sensing technologies will theoretically make such vehicles as safe as my toaster oven. But, (and here is the dilemma) there is a passage from Will Durant’s The Lessons of History that has always informed my worldview; one I think everyone should bear in mind in their unbridled enthusiasm for radical new technology,

“Out of every hundred new ideas, ninety-nine or more will probably be inferior to the traditional responses which they propose to replace. So the conservative who resists change is as valuable as the radical who proposes it—perhaps much more as the roots are more vital than grafts. It is good that new ideas should be heard, for the sake of the few that can be used; but it is also good that new ideas should be compelled to go through the mill of objection, opposition, and contumely [Ed: ridicule]; for this is the trial heat which innovations must survive before being allowed to enter the human race”.

I believe I've already used this forum to share the story of steam locomotive manufacturing in America, as a cautionary tale that we would be wise to observe in our own industry. The Reader's Digest version is that not one of the big three steam locomotive makers successfully transitioned to the manufacture of diesel locomotives. Instead, they stayed anchored in their comfort zone of producing steam-powered locos (this despite the clear fact that their customers preferred the new, lower-cost diesels). Ultimately, new entrants in the marketplace made the transition to diesel and ran the old companies out of business.

So there is the dilemma in a nutshell. Most successful organizations begin life with a healthy attitude towards change. But over time, circumstances and experience leave them so anchored in the past that they lose the ability to imagine any kind of future other than the one they know. Can’t happen here? Don’t bet on it. That’s why I’m going to bite my tongue and climb into a driverless car as soon as they are available. I just hope they throw me a bone and put a steering wheel in it.