

Outlook

In the Shadow of Wuhan

The quote, *may you live in interesting times*, comes to mind as I write this column. What a roller-coaster ride these past weeks and months have been.

"The aerospace industry is fighting for its life." Or so says a recent article on the Internet. Commercial airlines are taking a beating due to a massive drop in bookings. Airports are feeling the squeeze as non-essential travel slows to a trickle. The ripple effect is endless, as every cog in the supply chain—from suppliers like Glenair to giant industry OEMs—gets hammered by both the pandemic itself and the lockdown.

But as painful as the economic side is, the human tragedy is even greater. Being careful to protect their privacy, I can share with you the sad news that Glenair has lost two of our beloved staff members to the virus and seen others suffer through illness and hospitalization. As I expressed to our team in a recent communication, these events have been nothing short of body blows to our organization. What the families of these individuals must be experiencing goes without saying or even understanding.

It is in this context that Peter Kaufman and I wanted to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to everyone on the Glenair team—especially and including your families—for your dedicated efforts during this crisis. We really couldn't be prouder of the way all of you have responded to this incredible challenge. Clearly there continues to be uncertainty, but we are confident that with more of this same spirit—especially our "me and you against the problem" principle of working together to overcome obstacles, we will navigate whatever comes our way and do it with our accustomed Glenair success.

Many decades ago Glenair made the decision to keep our design, production and assembly work right here in the USA. To a marvelous extent this has sheltered us from the economic turmoil in China, Mexico and elsewhere. And yet now, despite these precautions, we find ourselves touched—in as painful a way as we can imagine—by events originating far, far away from our home in California. Some might say that pandemics of this sort are predictable and inevitable. That may be so. But that doesn't make the shadows they cast any less dark.

To our valued customers, suppliers and partners, please understand that our number one priority over the coming months—even as we return the company to full production mode—is the health, safety and welfare of our worldwide team. On behalf of each member of that team, you have our thanks for your ongoing patience, as well as our time-tested commitment to deliver.

Chris Toomey

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Publisher

Christopher J. Toomey

Managing Editor

Marcus Kaufman

Editor/Art Director

Mike Borgsdorf

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George Ramirez

Technical Consultant

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Issue Contributors

Davinder Basuita

Mike Dabrowski

Monish Doshi

Sam Farhat

Mike Ghara

Guido Hunziker

Ron Logan

Blas Moros

Greg Noll

Distribution

Terry White

*To subscribe or unsubscribe,
please contact Terry White:
twhite@glenair.com*

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GLENAIR, INC.

1211 AIR WAY
GLENDALE, CA 91201-2497
TEL: 818-247-6000
FAX: 818-500-9912
E-MAIL: sales@glenair.com
www.glenair.com

