

# Biography



## O'Connor

President, Chief Executive Officer  
Topcon Positioning Systems, Inc.

Ray O'Connor is President and Chief Executive Officer of Topcon Positioning Systems, Inc. (TPS), a position he has held since 2002. He is also President of the Positioning Operating Company, one of three companies that form Topcon Corporation, where he serves as Senior Managing Executive Officer. Additionally, he has served as Chairman of Topcon Europe Positioning Business since 2005. He is a Director of Topcon America Corporation and Topcon Europe BV.

After joining Topcon in 1993, O'Connor led the growth of TPS through strategic initiatives beginning in 1995. Since then, TPS revenue has grown ten-fold. During the last two years he directed the acquisition of three global manufacturers, Digi-Star, headquartered in the United States, Wachendorff Elektronik, headquartered in Germany, and Norac Industries headquartered in Canada, as he continues to lead the company in its mission to help meet the increasing demand for modernized infrastructure and sustainable agriculture.

From its headquarters in Livermore, Calif., TPS now manages 30 operations located in 15 countries on five continents, employing more than 1800 people.

O'Connor has received multiple business and academic honors as a result of his leadership in the positioning and geospatial industries. Recent awards include honorary doctorates from his alma mater, the Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland), for "achievements in international business and innovation" and the Second University of Naples (Italy) for "industrial design for innovation." He was named Geospatial Business Leader of the Year for 2012, recognized "as the champion of surveying and positioning technologies in the world."

In 2013, O'Connor became the youngest inductee into the elite Association of Equipment Manufacturers Hall of Fame, which recognizes and celebrates outstanding individuals in the off-road equipment industry, and their legacy of innovation, service and leadership. Most recently, he was recognized by Irish American magazine as one of the top 100 U.S business leaders with Irish heritage.

# Biography



## Iris D. Tommelein

Professor of Engineering  
and Project Management  
UC Berkeley

Iris D. Tommelein is Professor of Engineering and Project Management, in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at UC Berkeley. Her interests are in developing principles of project-based production management for the architecture-engineering-construction (AEC) industry, what is termed Lean Construction. Her pioneering research Lean Construction includes teaming up with design specialists, general- and specialty contractors, and suppliers to increase process and product development performance.

Professor Tommelein is an expert on Lean Construction, site logistics, layout, operations and methods design, materials management, and supply-chain management. Her work involves computer-aided design, planning, scheduling, simulation, and visualization of construction processes; and the use of information technology including web-based systems, wireless communication, bar-coding, and laser-based positioning systems. Professor Tommelein served 4 years on the Executive Committee of ASCE's Technical Council on Computing and Information Technology (TCCIT). She is a member of the TCCIT's Database and Information Management Committee, TCCIT's Expert Systems and Artificial Intelligence Committee, and the Construction Division's Construction Research Council. Professor Tommelein served as the Secretary General of the International Group for Lean Construction until 2017. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Lean Construction Institute.

Professor Tommelein is the 2002 recipient of the Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Prize from the American Society of Civil Engineers "for her research on civil engineering computing for managing project-based production systems in the engineering-architecture-construction industry".

She also is the 2014 recipient of the Peurifoy Construction Research Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers "for her contributions in developing Lean Project Production theory, methods and tools, and for successfully disseminating these theories, methods and tools into multiple large, complex projects in the US and worldwide."

Last but not least, she received the **Lean Pioneer Award 2015** from the Lean Construction Institute (LCI), recognizing an individual (or organization) who has moved the design and construction industry forward in embracing and implementing Lean tools and techniques on capital projects.

## Biography



### Kristen Sylva

Marketing Manager  
Construction Industry  
Autodesk

With a colorful 18-years of marketing experience ranging from sports and entertainment, to web design and healthcare, Kristen Sylva found the most excitement and passion for the construction industry.

After putting on her first hard hat, safety vest, and boots in 2008 as a marketing manager at Topcon Positioning Group, she knew that an extensive career in construction technology was in her future. While at Topcon, Kristen oversaw sales-driven marketing programs and led customer symposiums that evangelized the adoption of construction hardware technology.

In 2014 she made the transition from construction hardware to software and joined Autodesk as Construction Industry Marketing Manager. In her role, Kristen has the privilege of connecting with construction professionals and spearheading initiatives that showcase the innovative ways companies are using technology to digitize their construction projects and processes. She also leads initiatives that support lifting and building awareness for women in construction and serves on the board of Autodesk's Women in Leadership organization.

Kristen is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma (Boomer Sooner!) and currently resides in the East Bay of California with her husband, two kids, and two dogs.

## Biography



**Kate Fox Wood**

Director, Infrastructure Policy  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Kate Fox Wood is responsible for the direction of infrastructure policy at the federal government level for AEM, as well as the execution of its policy-focused thought-leadership initiative, Infrastructure Vision 2050. She oversaw AEM's year-long incentivized competition, the Infrastructure Vision 2050 Challenge, which culminated at CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2017 in Las Vegas, NV with a finale event. Five finalists pitched their visions for the future of U.S. transportation infrastructure in front of a panel of judges and a live audience. Their ideas were also featured within the show's new Tech Experience pavilion. She also directed the development of AEM's The U.S. Infrastructure Advantage™, a formal report that presents future-focused infrastructure principles espoused by the equipment manufacturing industry.

Before joining AEM, she worked on and managed several political campaigns in Nevada and Texas for federal and state candidates. Prior to that, Kate spent three years working in the U.S. House of Representatives as a legislative assistant for U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre, overseeing his veterans affairs, foreign affairs, and financial services legislative portfolio. She also worked for the Texas State House, specifically assisting with legislative efforts to give tax relief to Gold Star Survivors.

She received her Master's in Political Management from George Washington University and an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University.

## Biography



**Brock Grunt**

Executive VP, Operations

Brock Grunt grew up surrounded by home and boat building, having an architect father that was involved with both. He initially attended the California Maritime Academy studying Nautical Industrial Technology, intending to chase a career surrounded by more boats and the water, but ended up transferring to and graduating from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.S. in Economics. After two summer internships with McGuire and Hester, Brock began his fulltime employment with M&H in 1988.

Initially he was hired as a Project Accountant, a title which at the time, came with the duties of doing whatever was needed to get the job done from running a jackhammer to scheduling the work and billing the owner. From there, he was promoted to Project Manager, and later to Operations Manager for the then-named Underground Pipeline/Concrete Structures Division.

In 2003, Brock's title changed to Area Manager, and he has since been involved with projects throughout the Bay Area Counties. In 2016 Brock was promoted to Executive Vice President of all M&H Operations.

## Biography



**Cindy Ng**

Head of Marketing  
Drone Group  
New Technology Group  
Intel Corporation

Cindy Ng is the Head of Marketing of the Drone Group at Intel Corporation. She is responsible for creating awareness and demand generation across Intel's complete drone product portfolio. Cindy manages the drone product roadmap and overall product marketing and go-to-market strategy for Intel's Drone Group.

Prior to assuming her current role, Cindy was Technical Assistant/Chief of Staff to Intel's Executive Vice President and General Manager of Intel's Client Computing Group.

Cindy has over 17 years of experience with Intel in a variety of Finance, Product Marketing, Customer Marketing and Segment Marketing roles. Cindy holds a BA in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.