Michael S. Kelly

Michael S. Kelly is Chief Engineer at the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA/AST). His career has been divided between work in the aerospace defense world and the world of entrepreneurial commercial space transportation. In the 1980s, Mr. Kelly worked as a propulsion engineer and manager at TRW Ballistic Missiles Division on the Peacekeeper and Small ICBM SE/TA contracts. In 1989 he cofounded and became Director of Engineering of the TRW Space Launch Services Organization, applying ICBM technology to commercial space launch. In 1993, he formed Kelly Space & Technology, with an eye toward developing reusable launch vehicles. In 2005, he joined the X PRIZE Foundation to run Flight Operations for the annual X PRIZE Cup. In 2008, he became Chief Engineer at ATK's Missile Products Division. In 2010, he joined FAA/AST. During his career, Mr. Kelly has testified before both houses of Congress on legislative matters related to commercial space transportation, and for 11 years served as Chairman of the Reusable Launch Vehicle Working Group of the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, a Federal Advisory Committee to FAA/AST. He is the author of four patents, and holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University.