



News Release

908 King Street, Suite 100, Alexandria,
Virginia 22314
(703) 683- 5900
FAX (703) 683-2564
www.acconline.org

For Immediate Release

Contact: T.J. Schulz, tjs@acconline.org

Astrophysics' Mark Laustra Elected 2016 Chair of the Security Manufacturers Coalition

Elizabeth Pressnell with Morpho Detection Elected Vice-Chair

Alexandria, VA. – Mark Laustra, Vice President, Sales & Government Programs, The Americas, with Astrophysics was elected the new 2016 Chair of the Security Manufacturers Coalition (SMC). In this leadership position, Laustra oversees the development of high priority coalition advocacy issues and initiatives, and ensures that the coalition goals are accomplished in an effective and timely manner. Elizabeth “Sissy” Pressnell, Director, Strategic Business Development and Stakeholder Engagement with Morpho Detection, was elected as the coalition’s Vice Chair.

“With over 25 years in the detection industry, Mark has a diverse background in all aspects of transportation security, and his experience will be a tremendous asset to the coalition,” said T.J. Schulz, Director of the SMC. “We look forward to Mark’s leadership in driving our efforts to improve this nation’s security.”

“I am honored to lead the Security Manufacturers Coalition’s efforts in serving as the collective voice of the security technology manufacturing industry,” said Laustra. “The nine member companies of the SMC take pride in their role of securing the traveling public and contributing to the economy. SMC members are responsible for 7,000 direct jobs and up to 20,000 indirect jobs in eleven States and Washington DC. I also look forward to working with Sissy Pressnell as the 2016 Vice Chair, and continuing our positive engagement with our DHS partners and Capitol Hill.”

Pressnell said, “I am pleased to continue in a leadership role for the Coalition this year and working with our industry partners and stakeholders in developing solutions to address current and future threats to aviation and the transportation environment.”

Laustra has more than 25 years of managing technology-based programs in the Homeland Security space, having held positions with several of the leading manufacturers of security detection systems and sensors. Mark’s current role is head of sales and government programs for the Americas at Astrophysics Inc., a leading manufacturer of X-ray inspection based in southern California. His responsibilities include leading sales and program teams focused on finding solutions to security and compliance issues for customers in the Aviation, Ports and Borders and Critical Infrastructure markets. He is responsible for the company’s sales and marketing strategy and manages government engagement activities from Arlington, Virginia. Mark holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Central Florida.

The Security Manufacturers Coalition serves as the unified voice of companies that manufacture security screening technology and focuses on aviation and intermodal security issues in the U.S. and globally. Organized under the Airport Consultants Council (ACC), the Coalition addresses issues that most affect its member companies relating to funding and acquisitions, technology research programs, and international regulations and standards.