

Jim Utt

Jim founded Defense Engineering Corporation (DEC) in 2007 to develop and transition innovative technology to the warfighter through efficient, collaborative programs. DEC conducts research and development of military sensor and electronic warfare systems and components. Prior to founding DEC, Jim was vice president of engineering at Defense Research Associates Inc. (DRA). He joined DRA as the fifth employee in December 1998 and helped to build an engineering organization with expertise in embedded software, firmware, image processing, EO/IR sensors, and optics. By 2007, the company employed 75 people, 71 of which worked for Jim inside the engineering department.

During this period, DRA maintained a 90 percent commercialization rate on SBIR programs, largely due to the commercialization strategy elements of coordinating with the relevant operational and acquisition entities, as well as the laboratories, and partnering with an appropriate large company to accept the technology. Prior to joining DRA, Jim worked in the high-performance computing community developing real-time image and signal processing software.

Jim has 38 years of experience in the defense industry and a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.