Biography 

# Karl Sheldon

Executive Vice President

CFM International

 Karl Sheldon is the executive vice president of CFM International (CFM), the world’s leading manufacturer of jet engines for single-aisle aircraft. He was named to the position in February 2022.

Mr. Sheldon is also general manager of the CFM project department for GE Aviation. As part of the CFM Executive Team, he is responsible for overseeing programs carried out by CFM.

Along with his counterpart at Safran Aircraft Engines Counterpart, Sébastien Imbourg, Mr. Sheldon also serves as the primary interface between the two companies.

Mr. Sheldon began his career at Honeywell Engines and Systems in Phoenix, Arizona, where he worked on military engine performance and operability. He then moved to the GE Global Research Center, where he developed turbo machinery for GE Energy and GE Aviation, in 2001.

In 2007, Mr. Sheldon moved to GE Aviation’s Military Power and Propulsion Engineering group to work on the F110 engine and develop inlet/exhaust technologies for the military aviation business.

In 2012, he assumed responsibility for CFM56 Systems Engineering, managing engineering and development for the world’s largest fleet of commercial engines.

He was then promoted to general manager of GE Aviation’s Large Military Engine Department in 2016, leading the commercial strategy for this segment of the business, followed the role of general manger of the Advanced Military Engines, where he was responsible for leading the engineering strategy and development of GE’s portfolio of next generation military engines.

Most recently, Mr. Sheldon was general manager of the GE9X engine program, leading the product through certification and entry into service on the Boeing 777-9. He was also responsible for the development, production, and sustainment of the product through its life cycle.

In addition to having chaired sessions at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Industrial Gas Turbine Conference, Mr. Sheldon is a Six-Sigma Master Black Belt and an instrument rated pilot.

He is a native of Portland, Oregon, and attended Oregon State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1995.  After graduation, Mr. Sheldon served five years with the U.S. Army operating with NATO and UN forces in the Balkans.  He then returned to graduate school at Virginia Tech to earn a master’s degree in mechanical engineering.

CFM International (CFM), the 50/50 joint company between GE and Safran Aircraft Engines, is headquartered in West Chester, Ohio, near Cincinnati. CFM has delivered more than 40,000 CFM engines to date to some 650 operators worldwide, making it one of the most successful aircraft engine suppliers in history. The two parent companies have extended the partnership agreement to the year 2050.

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