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The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] today announced the appointment of Thomas J. Downey to the position of senior vice president of Communications, effective Jan. 1, 2007.

Downey will report to Boeing Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer Jim McNerney and serve on Boeing's executive council. He will be responsible for the company's global communications activities, including business unit and corporate communications, branding and advertising, employee and executive communications, and public relations.

Downey has led Boeing's corporate communications since April 2006, reporting to Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Communications Tod R. Hullin. Hullin will continue to lead all U.S. federal, state and local government liaison operations for Boeing and serve on the company's executive council.

"Tom has done a terrific job leading our corporate communications under Tod Hullin. He knows our industry and our businesses extremely well and will make an excellent addition to our senior team," McNerney said. "With Tom established in this role, Tod can dedicate his full attention to leading and advancing our extensive public policy agenda at the federal, state and local levels."

Downey, 42, is a 20-year Boeing veteran who has held a variety of senior assignments across the company's commercial airplanes and defense and space businesses. His prior positions include leading communications for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Boeing Military Aircraft and Missile Systems, Boeing corporate internal and executive communications, McDonnell Douglas Aerospace and Douglas Aircraft. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from Saint Louis University.

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