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The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] announced today that Neil Planzer will join the leadership team of its Air Traffic Management business unit as vice president, ATM Stakeholder Solutions. Planzer, an internationally recognized leader in air traffic control and the aviation industry, will start in his new role on April 21.

Planzer comes to Boeing from the U.S. Department of Defense, where he has served since 1998 as executive director, DoD Policy Board on Federal Aviation and associate director, Civil Aviation, U.S. Air Force. Prior to joining the Defense Department, Planzer held a series of progressively more responsible positions in air traffic management at the Federal Aviation Administration. His tenure at the FAA began with 14 years of field experience in air traffic control, and included terms as director of both the Office of Air Traffic Program Management and its Air Traffic Systems Requirements Service.

Planzer brings extensive experience in air traffic control operations, requirements development, research, training, procedures and aviation security and safety to this new position. His accomplishments include formulating and implementing DoD Regional Airspace Initiatives in 28 countries around the world; successfully establishing and managing startup organizations within the FAA; authoring Defense Department policy on air traffic control and air traffic management for China, Korea, Central Asia and Eastern Europe; and advising the National Security Council on restoring civil access to national airspace after September 11.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome Neil to Boeing ATM. His proven leadership and in-depth experience across a broad range of air traffic functions, as well as the strong relationships he's forged with key stakeholder organizations both in the United States and around the world, will be enormous assets to our team as we move forward," said ATM President John Hayhurst.

Planzer will be based in Air Traffic Management's McLean, Va., office.

Boeing established its Air Traffic Management unit in November 2000 to dramatically improve air traffic systems throughout the world. Its aims are to make flying even more safe and secure, significantly reduce delays, congestion and environmental impact, keep aviation affordable and accessible for commercial, military, business and general aviation users, and enable seamless global aviation operations.

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