Due to the recent press release by the Madison County Health Department restricting the size of gatherings in Madison County indefinitely (which includes the Yellowstone Conference Center at Big Sky Resort), and in the spirit of safeguarding our aerospace community at large, we have made the difficult decision that the 2021 IEEE Aerospace Conference will be held as a 100% virtual event.

We are disappointed that we are not able to gather with you in person in Big Sky, however, we are nevertheless resolved to continue promoting technical excellence in the aerospace community in a new virtual way. With the help of input from our Track Organizers and Session Organizers, we have been crafting an approach that will deliver a successful conference in 2021, with the expectation that we will return to our in-person format in 2022. We are embracing the new challenge to make the virtual 2021 Conference as successful and rewarding as possible.

To that end, we are developing an approach that allows real-time and on-demand virtual participation in the conference activities. The keynotes, panels, and plenaries will be live-streamed to virtual attendees during the week of the conference (dates/times to be announced). Paper presentations will be made available via pre-recorded videos on-demand for two weeks, giving participants the flexibility to hear all of the paper presentations at a time that is convenient for them regardless of time zone, extending the value and impact of each presentation. As planning evolves, we will make regular announcements via the website (www.aeroconf.org), and will provide information for virtual participants to enjoy the Conference to the fullest.

Knowledge-sharing will remain the cornerstone of the 2021 IEEE Aerospace Conference and your engagement and contributions will be paramount to its success. Though we can't meet in Big Sky, working together we can execute a successful and impactful 2021 IEEE Aerospace Conference, remembered by all for many years to come.

Thank you for your confidence and your support.

Kendra Cook Chair 2021 IEEE Aerospace Conference