

Mr. Robert E. Akans
Senior Director, Metalworking Technologies
Concurrent Technologies Corporation

Mr. Akans has more than 40 years of metalworking and manufacturing technical and leadership experience spanning a wide range of materials and metalworking technologies. Since joining Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) in 2004, he has held a number of management positions that provide strategic direction and operational support for company-wide technical activities in the areas of materials processing and manufacturing technologies. In 2008, Mr. Akans was named Technical Director of the Navy Metalworking Center (NMC), a Navy Manufacturing Technologies (ManTech) program funded by the Office of Naval Research. In this position, he identifies metalworking manufacturing and technology needs in the Navy industrial base and oversees the creation of projects that develop and implement technical solutions. Recently, Mr. Akans has led CTC's initiative to establish the Center for Advanced Nuclear Manufacturing to support the nuclear industry's development of advanced manufacturing technologies for the fabrication of small modular reactors and advanced reactor systems.

Prior to joining CTC, he held various technology development and management positions in the U.S. industrial base, specifically in the automotive, aluminum forging and extrusion and other metalworking industries. His accomplishments include development of high-strength powder metallurgy aluminum alloys for aerospace and defense applications; scale-up of manufacturing processes to produce full-scale PM forging billets; processing improvements to significantly reduce camshaft wear problems; development and integration of high-speed forging ingot preheating systems; and revolutionary processes for forging, forming and heat treating. Mr. Akans holds a BS in Metallurgical Engineering from Western Michigan University.