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Alan earned a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from San Diego State University in 1987. He has over 25 years of experience since beginning his career with McDonnell-Douglas/Boeing in January 1988.

Over the course of those years he has gained wide experience within the Propulsion Systems Group as cognizant engineer for a number of propulsion systems including thrust reversers, engine vibration monitoring systems, fuel systems, engine/APU fire protection, and was an SFAR 88 safety assessment lead. He also has experience in development of related flight crew procedures, maintenance tasks, airworthiness limitations, certification projects, safety review board activities, design specifications, interface control drawings, and safety analyses. Alan gained industry cooperation experience as co-chairperson of an Industry Aviation Rulemaking Committee team charged with evaluating potential improvements to existing thrust reverser safety airworthiness regulations. In addition to other tasks, he is currently project manager for Boeing's engine/APU fire extinguishing Halon replacement effort and is an FAA Authorized Representative for Powerplant and Propulsion Fire Protection certification.