



Sonya Sepahban

SVP, Engineering Development & Technology
General Dynamics

2012 Technologist of the Year



Sonya Sepahban's drive within the General Dynamics land systems division led to the development of a center with a mission to enable transfer of technology into vehicles and programs to address the Armed Forces' immediate needs. Sepahban also made her mark at Northrop Grumman, NASA Johnson Space Center, Lockheed Martin and a French aerospace company. At NASA, she was program manager of the crew escape capsule, which successfully modified the Russian Soyuz capsule as a lifeboat for astronauts orbiting earth in the space station. At Northrop Grumman she was president of mission excellence, and chief engineer for North Grumman Space Technology. Sepahban has also served on boards of various organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs of America, California Academy of Math and Science, and Next Up, a leadership development program for high achieving early-career women. It will overcome traditional roadblocks to achieve enduring success in a new assignment or job. She earned a bachelor's in chemical engineering from Cornell University in 1982 and a bachelor's in business administration from France's Institute of Political Sciences. Sepahban earned a master's in chemical engineering from Rice University (1985) and a master's in business administration from the University of Houston (1990).