Dr. Craig Blue is the Chief Manufacturing Officer for Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Defense Manufacturing Program Director for the National Security Sciences Directorate (NSSD). ORNL's Advanced Manufacturing Program capitalizes on ORNL's world-class user facilities such as the Spallation Neutron Source, Center for Nanophase Materials Science, Building Technologies Research and Integration Center, Carbon Fiber Technology Facility (CFTF), Manufacturing Demonstration Facility (MDF), and the National Transportation and Research Center. The Advanced Manufacturing Program played key roles in the initiation and support of both the MDF and CFTF

A visionary leader and team builder with a 25-year record of success in creating and building applied research and development teams and programs in materials, manufacturing, energy, and national security at ORNL. Initiated, led, or programmatically enabled 10 major initiatives, hubs, and institutes that leverage ORNL's basic and applied capabilities to address US materials and manufacturing challenges. He was the founding director of the MDF and the founding CEO of the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI).

He has more than 25 years of experience in conducting research in materials and manufacturing technologies, has authored approximately 100 open literature publications, holds 28 U.S. patents, and has received numerous awards including 10 R&D 100 Awards. He has served by invitation on numerous scientific and technical review panels, committees, and convocations convened by the National Science Foundation, the Council on Competitiveness, Manufacturing USA, National Academies of Sciences and Engineering and testified at the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing on Advanced Manufacturing.

He is a Battelle Distinguished Inventor, Fellow of ASM International, Fellow of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and has held adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Tennessee, University of North Texas, the Colorado School of Mines and was selected by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers as one of the "25 leaders transforming manufacturing".

Most recently he initiated three large DOD initiatives: a national machine tool program, America's Cutting Edge (ACE), to drive the revitalization of the machine tool industry in the US, a National Hypersonics Thermal Protection Systems Program to lower manufacturing costs and a large Castings and Forgings Replacement Program.