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James Cross is a vice president, research analyst and portfolio manager with Franklin Equity Group. He currently covers the aerospace and defense industries while leading the Industrials sector team. He also is a portfolio manager on the Franklin Technology Fund. Mr. Cross also coordinates the Franklin Equity Group's venture investment activities where he is a director on the Franklin Blackhorse and Talos venture funds.

Before assuming industry coverage in 2000, Mr. Cross focused on quantitative research, risk analysis and performance attribution. Prior to joining Franklin Templeton in 1998, he worked as an economic planner for the State of Texas.

Mr. Cross earned a B.B.A. with a major in economics from Baylor University. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder.