Ian Simmons has served as Vice President Research & Development since 2012. In this role Simmons is responsible for validating innovation opportunities for Magna along with developing cooperative relationships with customers as well as corporate venture groups, government agencies, educational communities and other research institutions. He also manages outside investment in partner-technology companies to commercialize inventions within Magna product groups. Simmons began his career in 1976 with student training at the Ford Motor Company in the U.K. Upon leaving Ford in 1982 he undertook engineering assignments in Europe with Volkswagen and DAF Trucks. He took an executive assignment in the U.S. in 1993, subsequently worked for Porsche Engineering, and joined Magna in 2003.