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Ronald Heft is responsible for research activities related to cooperative safety systems, including advanced development of Digital Short Range Communications (DSRC) implementations, at Nissan's North American Technical Center. He is currently vice-president of the Vehicle-Infrastructure Interface (VII) Consortium, a nonprofit organization of automobile manufacturers and serves as co-chair of the Technical and Architecture Committee of the National VII Coalition.

Previously, Heft has been an ITS America Distinguished International Fellow at VERTIS (now ITS Japan), Principal ITS Engineer at Navigation Technologies Corporation, Technical Manager of the Japan and Asia Program at the USDOT National ITS Architecture Program, and a project manager and technical staff member at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology.

Heft holds a Master of Science degree from the W. Averell Harriman School of Management and Policy at SUNY Stony Brook, and completed advanced studies in physics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; he received Bachelor of Science degrees in Physics and Mathematics from Lewis and Clark College.