The Systems Engineering and Project Management (SEPM) Joint Working Group (JWG) was established between the UK Chapter of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE UK) and the Association for Project Management (APM). These two organisations, leaders in their fields of Systems Engineering (SE) and Project Management (PM) agreed to work together to explore how to better integrate SE and PM in order to:

I. Set out the benefits of better ways of working between SE and PM through a well thought out and compelling value proposition

II. Provide practical advice and guidance on how SE and PM can work better together throughout the project lifecycle identifying roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, the competences that they require to fulfil those roles and what shared culture and behaviours they will need to adopt

III. Communicate the benefits of improved working between SE and PM through the production of guidance material, education and training and the use of practical case studies from real world examples

IV. Promote the benefits of systems thinking across the PM, SE and wider decision making community.

Introduction

The SEPM JWG have used various sources (standards, various BoKs, etc.) to explore what is in the domains of SE and PM, and what is in the overlap. We would like to explore your experiences in this area! Please think about the projects you have worked on and using post-its or bits of paper put them on the empty Venn diagram below.

A Challenge For You....

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SEPM JWG High Level Road Map

We developed a short to medium term high level plan with three distinct lines of activity which are set out in the diagram below:

(1) Complete the JWG document
   - This is the list of documents which is effectively our SE/PM BoK baseline

(2) Apply to APM to create the JWG into a more formal APM SIG around “Systems Thinking” while maintaining existing links to INCOSE UK
   - Bringing the JWG into the mainstream APM SIG structure will enable better access to APM corporate resources

(3) Develop guidance material around fusions and touch points. Initial focus is to develop guidance on 10 identified fusion areas
   - Fusions are areas of deep integration between SE/PM, while touch points are where the two disciplines are working side-by-side and work is passed to and fro

How to get Involved

If you would like further information or would like to participate in the SEPM JWG, please contact the co-chairs:

INCOSE UK Co-Chair
Dr Doug Cowper
dcowper@cleavesystems.co.uk

APM Co-Chair
Mr John McGlynn
john.mcglynn@atkinsglobal.com

Or contact the INCOSE UK Secretariat
enquiries@incoseonline.org.uk

Fusions, Overlaps & Touch Points Between SE & PM

The interaction between the disciplines of Systems Engineering (SE) and Portfolio, Programme and Project Management (P3M) can occur in many different forms, and these can bring about either positive or negative outcomes.

If this range of interactions is broken down into the amount or ‘scale’ of the interaction and the nature of the interaction then it can be represented as shown in the diagram.

For more information on this diagram and the nature and scale of interaction, please see the hand out in your delegate’s pack.