



Proposed Name Change Frequently Asked Questions

Why the name change?

Having recently become licensed as a PEI (Professional Engineering Institution) there has been a lot of confusion within wider UK engineering circles about the boundaries between INCOSE UK and INCOSE. This is unhelpful when we are now subject to a formal regulatory regime. Currently, no other PEI uses someone else's name with UK added to it, so we look out of place when compared to our peers.

Adopting a name which is better aligned to the UK engineering ecosystem will make it more obvious who we are and what we do and create opportunities for further growth.

Why this name?

Fundamentally, the name change brings us into alignment with our peer institutes/institutions that are regulated by the Engineering Council. Every single word in the new name has been the subject of discussion and voting at INCOSE UK Council meetings. The rationale for each of them is:

- "Institute" not "Institution" because it's more progressive and dynamic, as befits a relatively young discipline
- "For" rather than "Of" because "Of" is possessive whereas "for" is about supporting, enabling and improving
- "Systems" in plural because no system exists in isolation
- "Engineering" not "Engineers" because it's all about giving back to the practice of the discipline (whoever is doing it), as well as providing a professional home for Systems Engineering in the UK

The abbreviation to IfSE rather than ISE is partly to avoid confusion with the IISE - the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers which is another US-based global engineering society operating in a similar space. It also aligns with GfSE in Germany, which translates as the "Society for Systems Engineering". Including the "f" makes it look quite distinctive, and both "MifSE" and "FifSE" would look good as post nominals in the future.

What happens to INCOSE UK?

As part of this process and to ensure a smooth transition, INCOSE UK would remain as a company but will become a subsidiary of IfSE. We are very aware that it can take a long time to set up bank accounts, merchant accounts etc for new organisations and by maintaining INCOSE UK as an operational business, we can ensure continuity of service to our members.

So initially your receipts and invoice will still feature the INCOSE UK company information.

What are Articles of Association and the 'Rulebook'?

All limited companies must have articles of association. These set the rules company officers must follow when running their companies. "Model" articles of association are the standard default articles a company can use and are prescribed by the Companies Act 2006.

The Model articles of association have simplified the constitution of a company. The old style memorandum has been abolished making the articles the overarching document that govern the company, accompanied by a 'rulebook' which outlines how the company operates.

The legal advice we have received is that IfSE should use these model articles of association and create a rulebook, as it brings us in line with current law and makes running the institute more straightforward.

If we vote in favour of becoming the Institute for Systems Engineering (IfSE) what happens next?

If the vote is in favour of becoming IfSE, we still have a number of hurdles to get through, below is an outline of the next steps.

- Submit the paperwork to Companies House to form IfSE and make INCOSE UK a subsidiary of IfSE.
- Put in place the legal, financial and governance structure, including but not limited too, setting up bank accounts, inform the Inland Revenue, update the MOA with INCOSE.
- Develop the new membership processes. The Engineering Council required us to change our classes of membership from three to six with subsets. Until we have this process defined and the system in place IfSE will not be able to accept members.
- Request that the Engineering Council transfer our license from INCOSE UK to IfSE (this has been agreed but we don't want it to happen until IfSE has it's membership system in place).
- Transfer all members to IfSE
- Start operating as IfSE rather than INCOSE UK

Do I need qualifications to be a member of IfSE?

If you are already a member of INCOSE UK at the point when membership is transferred, your membership status will either be Professional Membership, Registered Membership or Student Membership. I.e if you are currently a Student member you will remain Student member, if you are either a Member or a Senior Member you will become a Professional Member and if you are a Registered Member you will remain a Registered Member.

Individuals applying to join IfSE going forward, will either join as Student, Affiliate or Professional Members, for more information on this please look at the Articles of Association and the Rulebook.

What will the postnominals be and when can I use them?

Postnominals will be available to four of the classes of Membership.

- MIfSE (Member of the Institute for Systems Engineering”) for Professional Members,
- MIfSE (Member of the Institute for Systems Engineering) for Registered Members
- FIfSE (Fellow of the Institute for Systems Engineering) for Fellows
- HonFIfSE (Honorary Fellow of the Institute for Systems Engineering) for Honorary Fellows

Can I be a Fellow?

We will not be introducing a Fellowship scheme during the initial tranche of transformation, however this is something we intend to investigate and develop in subsequent tranches.

Obviously there is much to look at when considering launching a Fellowship scheme (Professional recognition, value to members and employers, candidate criteria etc...) and we will keep you informed of the progress of this proposal as we move forward.

Will this affect my Professional Registration?

Not at all. If you become Professionally Registered with INCOSE UK before the name change, and during the transition, your registration remains with the Society/Institute.

Is my Professional Registration certificate good or do I get a new one?

The question was put to the Engineering Council who stated that the issue of whether a Professional Registration Certificate is still valid after a name change was still being discussed. They could clarify that in, the event of a licensee changing its name, new certificates are not automatically issued and it would be down to the individual to request a replacement. There may be a charge for this, but that matter is currently being discussed.

Will it cost me more? Will the fees go up to IET Levels?

The membership fees are reviewed annually and have recently increased in line with inflation. These fees will be reviewed as part of our transition to IfSE and will remain competitive with the other Institutions and Professional Bodies. It is not envisioned that these fees will increase again this year.

Will my direct debit change?

The short answer to this is yes, your direct debit will change.

A new name requires a new financial structure as well as a new bank account, meaning any direct debits connected to the old account will no longer be active.

However, this is not envisioned to be a difficult change. All members will receive a notice telling them when the change is due to take place and the next steps they will need to take to change their direct debit.

How does this affect our relationship with (Engineering Council/ INCOSE/RAEng/APM/AFIS/UK Government/etc)?

The change is not intended to affect our existing relationships with other organisations, however in some cases we believe the name change will strengthen our existing relationships.

Are we leaving INCOSE? (If not, why not?)

No. We are not leaving INCOSE. To do so would be to go against all our collaborative instincts and would take away our fairly unique position amongst UK Professional Engineering Institutions in being well-integrated into a wider world community. However, we are formalising our relationship with INCOSE through significant revisions to our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), and the introduction of a Data Sharing Agreement and other instruments to ensure compliance with UK GDPR. These changes will make the relationship with INCOSE more business-like and less blurred.

What is this mythical MOA?

INCOSE has Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with most, but not all, of the non-US national chapters. Our MOA recognises that INCOSE UK is a legal entity in its own right, with its own members, and set out the obligations and benefits agreed between INCOSE UK and INCOSE. In broad terms, it sets out that INCOSE UK will operate the UK of Chapter of INCOSE on their behalf and that all INCOSE UK members will be enrolled as INCOSE members as well, gaining appropriate rights and paying an agreed fee to INCOSE.

What happens to my INCOSE Membership?

There will be no change to your INCOSE Membership status. When you renew or apply to IfSE for membership you will also be enrolled as an INCOSE member.

Your status will not change and neither will the membership application or renewal processes.

Does the UK Chapter now send less money to the USA?

The amount that INCOSE UK pays to INCOSE Central from each member's annual fee is currently being discussed as part of the MOA renegotiation. We would like to reach a fairer deal that recognises the added cost of running a large and active chapter.

Will this affect my SEP Certification?

No. As you will still be a member of INCOSE you will still retain the right to SEP status.

You will not lose your certification and you still be able to renew via IfSE.

Anyone who does not have a SEP Certification will still be able to apply via IfSE.

Can I still go to INCOSE International's events/working groups?

Yes. As an INCOSE UK/IfSE member you will be automatically enrolled as an INCOSE member as well, so the same set of opportunities to engage in international events and working groups will be retained.