For this ePreview I want to provide you with an overview of what we are doing to ensure the continued operation of INCOSE UK in the face of current challenges. The Covid-19 situation has given rise to consideration of our operational resilience. As a result the Team of Presidents (Kirsty Akroyd-Wallis President, Ian Gibson President Elect and Ivan Mactaggart Immediate Past President) have held regular discussion with our Head of Secretariat to ensure we continue to provide a good service to our members. As a summary of what has been happening:

First and foremost, we are actively managing the impact of COVID-19 on INCOSE UK as part of our normal Risk Management activities. We have made positive steps to ensure that no-one is put in an unsafe position whilst still providing most of our normal services for our members and the UKAB.

Some of the changes we have made you will already have seen: Dot-The-Eye were able to move rapidly so that the team are supporting us remotely, with no loss of service. The purchase of a Zoom licence has enabled us to continue with our usual Council and UKAB meetings, albeit remotely. Sadly, the cancellation of some events was unavoidable – including the Joint Meeting of the Council, UKAB, Group Chairs and ECF. It is hoped that this will now take place as part ASEC.

Importantly, we have been able to ensure that our Professional Registration services are completely unaffected; for those considering Professional Registration as CEng, IEng or EngTech there has never been a better time! The assessment team are already well-practised at remote interviews, and the review board meetings are now being held the same way. In fact, we are now able to provide additional support to our potential registrants through a series of online Registration Workshops using Zoom.

There have been numerous remote events, including an ECF Virtual Quiz, a series of free MBSE Virtual events and an Architects Working Group event that are proving very popular.

We are also looking into contingency plans to ensure that ASEC can still take place in the event of an extended lockdown period. We all hope that life will have long returned to some form of normality by November, but we are not taking anything for granted.

The three of us sincerely wish you, your friends, and families well. Stay safe everyone.
Professional Registration

Registration Open

We are pleased to inform you that INCOSE UK has now opened the online professional registration application and transfer processes to all members.

INCOSE UK Ltd has been approved as a Licensed Member of the Engineering Council (having previously held Professional Affiliate status), therefore we are now able to assess candidates for inclusion on the national register of professional engineers and technicians as Chartered Engineer (CEng), Incorporated Engineering (IEng) or Engineering Technician (EngTech).

In addition, we also accept applications from those members wishing to transfer their professional registration to become a registered member of INCOSE UK.

If you have any questions about applying for professional registration with INCOSE UK or transferring your accreditation, please email our professional development team on profdev@incoseuk.org.

Online Session

Places are now available for our online Professional Registration Sessions:

Dates: 17 June 2020 and 15 July 2020
Time: 12:00 - 12:45
Location: Zoom - link will be provided to confirmed attendees

Have you considered registering as a Chartered Engineer (CEng), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) or Engineering Technician (Eng Tech)?

INCOSE UK offers a route to Professional Registration for Systems Engineers, and we are accepting both new applications and transfers now.

In order to provide information and guidance, we have set up a series of interactive professional Registration Zoom sessions. These sessions are open to all potential candidates and there is no requirement to be a member, in order to attend.

The sessions are 45 minutes long and will include:

- An overview from Kirsty Akroyd-Wallis, President of INCOSE UK and experienced assessor, interviewer and mentor
- Practical information on the registration process and how to apply from Lynn Davis, Professional Development Manager
- An insight into the process from a recent applicant’s perspective
- Question and Answer session

The session is designed to give applicants an overview on Professional Registration with INCOSE UK and provide them with information to enable them to begin a draft application.

To book a place for you or a colleague, please email profdev@incoseuk.org
INCOSE UK Elections

The roles of President Elect, Communications Director and Professional Development Director are coming up for election later in the year. The full details will be published at a later date, but more information regarding the election can be found here.

We asked the current incumbents of the roles if they would like to talk about the role, and the part they play within it, to give those considering wishing to nominate themselves a better idea of what it entailed.

INCOSE UK President Elect - Ian Gibson

The role of President-Elect is part dress-rehearsal, part training course, and part being a fixer. You will work directly with the rest of the Presidential team (President, Past-President and President-Elect) and the other Directors of the limited company (Finance Director and Company Secretary) to run the business (because at a fundamental level that’s what it is) with the support of the Secretariat (provided by Dot-The-Eye Ltd). It is essential that INCOSE UK Ltd. remains a viable business, and the primary responsibility of the Directors is to maintain this state of affairs whilst achieving our aims and ambitions. This means working with the rest of the Directors on the INCOSE UK Council to ensure that our range of services, events and publications is delivered to the expected level of quality and value to our members.

What does the role involve? There’s a regular pattern of fortnightly calls with the three Presidents and Dot-The-Eye to deal with any matters arising, and quarterly meetings of the INCOSE UK Council interspersed with UK Advisory Board meetings where you represent INCOSE UK to the UKAB. The President-Elect also has ultimate responsibility for Events and Groups. Events, and particularly ASEC, has developed into something of a well-oiled machine with well-defined processes, so the main involvement here is around sorting out themes, keynotes and venues, and then providing direction and inputs as needed. Groups is somewhat more freeform, but with specific responsibilities to co-chair the annual joint leadership meeting of Council, UKAB and Group chairs, and to hold a session for group chairs at ASEC each year.

If nothing else, all of this engagement across INCOSE UK means that after 2 years in post you pretty much know everyone involved in the organisation and how it operates. There’s also an international angle with regular EMEA sector calls, and the need for someone from the 3Ps to represent INCOSE UK at the major INCOSE international events (negotiating, signing agreements, and voicing opinions). Of course, in these times of social distancing and travel bans things are being done a little bit differently, and there’s a reasonable chance that remote collaboration with video conferencing might become the norm rather than the exception – both internationally and within the UK. We have already started using Zoom for meetings and will be experimenting with our first virtual Council meeting later in the year.

It’s certainly a rewarding role, with lots of support from the wider team, and should be excellent preparation for taking over the President role when the time comes. On a personal note, despite being in Council roles since 2008 and serving on the International Board of Directors for 2 years, I am learning new things about how INCOSE UK works in this role that I previously didn’t need to be aware of… luckily it’s a 2 year role with plenty of scope for on-the-job training!

Communications Director - Hazel Woodcock

I have been in the role of Communications Director for nearly six years and have seen some significant changes over that time. As part of the INCOSE UK Council I have attended meetings and had a say in the decisions driving the progress of INCOSE UK as an organisation. The opportunity to have a raised profile within the International INCOSE leadership group is also there, but without pressure to take it up. These are opportunities that come with every role on the Council.
We have become active on Twitter, productive in our LinkedIn group, seen changes in Preview (on hold for now), ePreview, and in a more consistent look to our notifications. We have a new logo, including group logos, and the website is improving. As a team we are impacted by GDPR, and we take responsibility for material release forms for published content.

I have worked closely with the team at Dot-the-Eye, secure in the knowledge that if the day job becomes too demanding for a short period, they will keep everything going. We have to adjust what we do to the budget available. That budget is in some respects flexible, as volunteer effort can be applied. However, we need to keep communications sustainable, so short bursts of effort need to be put to use on one-time projects.

The role is one of several that sits at the heart of INCOSE UK, helping it to grow and mature. We are now a fully licensed member of the Engineering Council and that will offer new opportunities to be creative with the Communications Director role.

Overview of Professional Development Director’s role

INCOSE UK are looking for a member to take on the role of Professional Development Director (PDD) and lead the Professional Development Team.

The role offers the holder both an opportunity to expand their understanding of how System Engineering competencies relate to associated career paths and influence how professional development can support system engineers to achieve and maintain appropriate levels of competence.

The three Presidents and the Secretariat have worked hard to establish the new Professional Registration process and the new PDD will be taking over the role with the new systems in place. Once in post they can develop a strategy and establish a PD Team to work with them and the Secretariat as required.

Role Overview

The INCOSE UK Professional Development Director (PDD) is responsible for overseeing INCOSE UK’s Professional Development activities and initiatives.

They are expected to own and deliver, with the support of a volunteer network, a Professional Development plan that meets INCOSE UK’s strategic goals. This includes the maintenance and retention of the licences granted by the Engineering Council.

The PDD is responsible for helping INCOSE UK connect to the wider UK engineering community in matters relating to the professional development of systems engineers.

The PDD is an elected, position with a three-year term of office and is a voting member of the INCOSE UK Council.

Benefits

The role holder will have an opportunity to influence the strategic direction of INCOSE UK through their role on the INCOSE UK Council.

The role offers an opportunity to both grow their understanding of Systems Engineering competencies relate to associated career paths, and influence how professional development can support systems engineers to achieve and maintain appropriate levels of competence.

As part of the Chapter leadership, the holder will engage with INCOSE UK members seeking to develop their careers, Systems Engineering function leaders, other professional engineering institutions, academia and the wider UK Industry. The role holder will also have a significant opportunity to collaborate and influence ongoing professional and competence development initiatives within INCOSE internationally.

Engaging with stakeholders will broaden the professional networks of the role holder, with benefit to both the individual and their employer.
This year has seen some new additions to the committee. Christian Simmons has joined as the Universities Liaison and Beth Fitzpatrick to the Group Liaison role. Here is a little introduction from them:

Hi, I’m Chris Simons an engineer at DE&S working in the Aerospace domain. I’m the new student liaison and will be working to reach out to UK universities and colleges to promote the ECF and offer our services to promote SE and collaborate with these academic institutes.

Hi, I’m Beth Fitzpatrick, a Systems Engineer at Atkins working in the Defence sector. I’m the new Groups Liaison so will work across all the INCOSE UK groups, sharing and collaborating across all of the exciting things that are happening!

Amelia Jephson has been elected as the ECF Chair having previously held the Events Coordinator role:

Hi I’m Amelia, I am a Systems Engineer at Atkins. I really enjoyed my time as the Events Coordinator and am looking forward to continuing our initiatives such as our engagement with working and local groups and even further afield with wider INCOSE to support all members in developing their Systems Engineering career.

We are continuing to plan events and support where we can albeit virtually and still have a number of vacant committee positions. If you would like to find out more about our roles, have any suggestions for events and initiatives or just want to get in touch, please do through ecf-chair@incoseuk.org!

The ECF Virtual Quiz

On 7th of May The INCOSE UK ECF hosted its first virtual quiz. Teams were put through their paces with a varied set of rounds from technology and history to INCOSE Handbook acronyms and SysML-ary. Nkosi even made a guest appearance in the ‘Where in The World is Nkosi?’ picture round!

The ECF really enjoyed running the quiz and would like to thank Prof Jon Holt for his SysML contributions and Ian Presland for quiz coordination support.

The ECF is looking to do more events and initiatives to support INCOSE UK during this time and beyond. If you have any suggestions or would like to see another quiz run again please get in touch on ecf-chair@incoseuk.org.
Systems Engineering Assessed State of the Nation (SEASON) 2020 has now been published, providing a fresh baseline on the current situation, with regard to the Systems Engineering profession in the UK. We have published this major report twice before and this one provides a major update on many of the matters addressed. They range from current trends in application, through advances in professionalisation, the state of education and research and our own membership analysis.

Members can access it at this link initially until it is released, at a later date, as a free download for all. We are also distributing this report to many other organisations as part of our targeted Outreach campaign. These include professional bodies in Engineering and related disciplines, government departments, agencies, and trade bodies. Our aim is to increase the reach of the message about the value the profession can bring, and reinforce that message where there is till more that can be done, as well as to assist those involved in developing and growing the profession in their endeavours.

I intend that SEASON is updated on a more regular basis over the years ahead than has been the case previously. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. Thank you.
Chris outreach-director@incoseuk.org
The current proposal is that ASEC 2020 will take place on 17 and 18 November in Heythrop Park Resort, Oxfordshire. If we are unable to hold the event at this location, we will hold a virtual event. Whatever the case, we will keep you informed.

We have, so far, received the highest number of submissions for papers and tutorials, which we hope will provide a strong programme for attendees.

Abstracts are being reviewed and the line-up will be announced at a later date.

More information is available on the ASEC 2020 website.

Of Interest...

In the latest episode of The Joshua Sutherland Podcast, various members of the worldwide SE Community discuss the consequences of Covid-19 on Systems Engineering.

The podcast can be found here.

INCOSE UK have produced a wide variety of titles to keep you educated and informed during the Lockdown.

DON'T PANIC! The Absolute Beginners Guide to Managing Interfaces is the second in INCOSE UK’s series of DON'T PANIC guides intended to give readers a beginners guide to topics within the Systems Engineering world.

This book aims to provide a straightforward and simple introduction to the issues surrounding Managing Interfaces, equipping readers with some practical methods and best practice tools for improving their definition and management of interfaces.

Introduction to Systems Architecting covers the who, what, when, where, why and how of system architecture in relation to all systems irrespective of their level, scale, composition, form or construction.

It assumes no prior knowledge in the subject area but is well-founded so that it provides a springboard for further investigation.

Available as both a PDF and physical copy.

Think Engineer is a children's book that is designed to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and in particular engineering to school children. The book was launched in November 2015 and is published by INCOSE UK.

The book is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 7-11), and their parents and teachers to raise the awareness of engineering.

All of the above, along with further titles, can be purchased from the INCOSE UK Online Store.

INCOSE UK is the UK Chapter of INCOSE and is an Engineering Council registered Systems Engineering Society.

With over 1000 members coming from diverse backgrounds covering purchasers, system developers and academics and representatives including aerospace, automotive, defence, transportation, communication and telecommunications, INCOSE UK is the best place to get your message across.

Please contact advertise@incoseuk.org for more information.
We would like to send congratulations to the following members who have attained ASEP and CSEP since the last preview.

Members listed have given their consent to be published.

ASEPs

Daniel English
Warwick Wheatley

Steven Farley also attained the ASEP Certification.

CSEPs

Alistair Beadle

Ivan Grigorchenkov also attained the CSEP Certification.

INCOSE UK would like to congratulate our latest CSEP, Rob Black, who recently completed the process.

Rob is currently Subject Matter Expert for Requirements Management/Project Systems Engineering at Sellafield Ltd. In this role he promotes a systematic approach to the specification and delivery of engineering solutions that address business needs and encompassing requirements for timely hazard reduction and tax-payer value. He has played a key role in associated strategy definition and implementation (incl. people, organisation, process, and enablers)

Rob has shared his experience with members through a case study on his experience of applying for CSEP which can be found here.

Certification Exam Cancellation

Due to the current situation, the planned SEP exam in June has been cancelled.

The exam will be rescheduled after the Summer, and will be announced once all the details have been confirmed.
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Events Diary

4 Jun 20

INOSE UK Council Meeting, Virtual Meeting
To be a virtual meeting.

17 Jun 20

Online Professional Registration Session
12.00 - 12.45. To book a place for you or a colleague, please email profdev@incoseuk.org

14 Jul 20

UKAB Meeting, Manufacturing Technology Centre
This is one of the quarterly meetings where the UKAB discuss the hot topics of Systems Engineering. To be rescheduled.

15 Jul 20

Online Professional Registration Session
12.00 - 12.45. To book a place for you or a colleague, please email profdev@incoseuk.org

18 - 23 Jul 20

30th International Symposium, Cape Town, South Africa
More information about the Symposium can be found here. This is now a virtual event.

18 Sep 20

Each for Equal in Systems Engineering, Bristol Zoo
Free event, all welcome, booking site will follow.

17 - 18 Nov 20

ASEC 2020, Heythrop Park Resort, Oxfordshire
More information about the Symposium can be found here.

18 Nov 20

INOSE UK AGM, Heythrop Park Resort, Oxfordshire
This meeting will take place on Day 2 of ASEC 2020.

19 Nov 20

INOSE UK Joint Meeting, Heythrop Park Resort, Oxfordshire
This meeting will take place following ASEC 2020.