

18 November 2021

Dear Member,

MC_3_11_2021

Proposal to change INCOSE UK to the Institute for Systems Engineering

We are writing to you on behalf of the INCOSE UK Council to inform you of a proposal which we believe forms a natural evolution of the organisation as we embrace our new identity as a Professional Engineering Institution (PEI), licensed by the Engineering Council.

The proposal is to ask the Secretary of State, supported by the Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering, for approval to set up a new organisation called the **Institute for Systems Engineering (IfSE)**. Subsequently we will transfer across all existing **INCOSE UK** members to the new institute.

This will improve our standing as a PEI and attract new members by adopting a name that resonates with a future where we are the “go to” organisation within the UK for aspiring Systems Engineers, and those with an interest in the discipline. Most other PEIs contain the protected term “Institute/Institution” and state the engineering discipline that they represent in plain language rather than hiding it inside an abbreviation. No other PEI has a name based upon taking another organisation’s name and putting “UK” on the end.

This will also provide us with a number of opportunities to reshape the organisation, adopt modern practices (such as virtual annual general meetings), and put in place mechanisms to support different classes of membership, in particular this includes introducing a Fellow status that is more aligned to normal UK practice, which our members frequently ask about.

All of the benefits that members currently enjoy through being members of both INCOSE UK and INCOSE, such as access to INCOSE resources, preferential rates for INCOSE events, and the ability to gain ASEP, CSEP and ESEP certification will remain in place. These are all contained with our formal Memorandum of Agreement with INCOSE which enables INCOSE UK Ltd to operate the UK Chapter of INCOSE.

As a member organisation we need your approval to do this, and intend to run an online vote during late November and December 2021 to seek a majority vote to proceed. If successful, we will then start on rebranding activities and engaging with legal advisors and the relevant bodies.

We will be delighted to discuss this in person with delegates at ASEC 2021 in Leeds, or by email on this address ifse@incoseuk.org.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Gibson".

Ian Gibson

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Thomas".

Malcolm Thomas

President-Elect

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsty Akroyd-Wallis".

Kirsty Akroyd-Wallis

Past President

Rationale

INCOSE UK was founded to act as the UK Chapter of INCOSE. It has always had its own distinct identity as a legal entity, registered with Companies House and operating under the law of England and Wales. Whilst INCOSE UK was a natural choice of name at the time, the founders could just as easily have gone down a more individual route – as has been done by many of the other national chapters across the globe.

However, over the 13 years that we have been on the INCOSE UK Council in various roles, there have always been moments of confusion as to whether our members are acting on behalf of INCOSE UK or INCOSE, both by some of the members and more likely by other parties that they are engaging with. On many occasions, recent INCOSE UK Presidents have been introduced as the “President of INCOSE” and had to correct someone, which is always a bit awkward. Such confusion was less of an issue when we were effectively a “systems club”, but having become a licensed PEI, there is a need to put in place some clear distinctions around both our governance and operational activities.

This is an opportunity to fully claim our own identity and reinvent ourselves to face towards the future. It is our belief that renaming ourselves as the Institute for Systems Engineering will be an important step in establishing our place within the UK engineering ecosystem amongst our peer institutes.

This will also simplify our governance arrangements with the Engineering Council, where currently the confusion between INCOSE and INCOSE UK has been causing some difficulties.

Implementation

To do this we anticipate the need to set up a new limited company alongside INCOSE UK Ltd, which would be a company limited by guarantee in the same manner, but with a new set of Articles of Association which would be based upon the new model Articles as defined in the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008.

The timeline for these activities will stretch across 2022, with the main steps including:

- Develop new Articles of Association (with legal advice from the Engineering Council’s appointed advisor).
- Develop new branding and identify changes required to website and documentation.
- Obtain letters of support from the Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering.
- Submit application to Companies House and seek approval.
- Update agreements, documents and website.
- Transfer members to new organisation.
- Launch event – ideally at ASEC 2022.

The Proposal to be voted on is:

“Take the necessary steps to transform INCOSE UK into the Institute for Systems Engineering (IfSE).”