



# Case Study: CEng

## Chris Rogers



An agile minded Systems Engineer who specialises in process definition and augmentation. I have worked on multi-billion-pound projects in Aerospace, Automotive, Defence, Nuclear and Rail. Having worked on complex projects at different stages of a systems life cycle, I have developed a well-rounded holistic viewpoint and a unique Systems Thinking approach to synthesising solutions within the project's constraints.

In the consultancy division, I relish engaging with companies that are beginning their Systems Engineering (SE) journey. With my SE knowledge, I enjoy writing companies' processes tailored to their industry and executing them. During process development, I ensure that I obtain feedback from my peers; engineers, managers and contractors to ensure that the process works for all stakeholders. Furthermore, such feedback allows me to hone the skills needed to be an exceptional engineering manager and team player. Once the processes have been proven out, I revel in training staff on process awareness and the importance of following them.

Outside of the office, I enjoy property renovation and run my own house renovations and holiday letting business. I often find that SE principles can be extended to all aspects of life (including property!) where generic reuse exploitation can be highly beneficial.

### **Congratulations on gaining your INCOSE UK Chartered Engineer (CEng) title. What inspired you to become professionally registered?**

I decided to work towards chartership as I wanted recognition for the vast amount of SE experience I had gained across a multitude of industries. I had researched several professional registration bodies and decided that INCOSE UK best aligned with my skillset. I also share INCOSE UK's vision and align myself very closely with their values.

### **How did you find the application process? Was it challenging to document all your work experience and did it take a long time?**

I was in a fortunate position during the application process as I had been recording my Continuous Professional Development (CPD) since I was a student. I also decided to approach my CEng and CSEP applications in parallel which enabled me to reuse a large proportion of the information I wrote in both applications. I spent circa 500 hours on both the applications and studying for the CSEP exam and built this into my daily schedule with a deadline of May 2019 in mind.

### **How easy was it to track down supporters and references in support of your application?**

INCOSE had some great mentors available to support reviewing my CEng application which I took full advantage of. I found it quite easy to provide references from my previous places of work that could together cover the expanse of my SE experience.

### **Tell us about your experience of the assessment process?**

Once I had read through the professional registration material and consulted my mentor, I fully understood the difference between an Incorporated (IEng) and Chartered Engineer (CEng). This enabled me to focus on what past experiences I needed to focus on as part of the application process. The interview process effectively was ensuring that I was who I said I was on the application (with a couple of curveballs thrown in to see how I could cope on my feet!). Overall, I believe there is a wealth of knowledge (both people and documents) that can support any engineer on their journey to IEng or CEng.

### **In what ways has registration benefitted your career?**

Being professionally registered with INCOSE UK has opened up many permanent and contractual SE opportunities for me. A degree shows that you have the baseline of theoretical knowledge to understand how a job is performed. Professional registration is the proof to employers that you can execute these tasks effectively and continue pushing yourself. Additionally, it has opened my eyes to a whole cast of resources, namely other engineers who can share best practices and industry knowledge, an invaluable asset in my eyes.

### **How does your employer benefit from your professional registration?**

Consultancies are often able to ascertain more tenders and sometimes even charge their consultants out at higher rates if they have professional registration. There are also some roles in companies (such as Lead Engineers) that require CEng/IEng status as a prerequisite to show that the person is Suitably Qualified and Experienced Person (SQEP) to sign off the necessary assurance documentation associated with the role.

**Do you participate in any other career-related activities, such as mentoring, volunteering or membership of other engineering groups?**

I have always been keen to teach others and redistribute the support that I have received, back into the engineering community. In my place of work, I continually encourage those around me to learn more about SE, to understand the INCOSE SE Handbook and to strive for professional recognition.

**Is there any advice you would pass on to someone considering professional registration?**

For anyone considering professional registration, the best advice I can give is to really focus on your CPD from an early stage and document everything! If you are unsure of the protocol to become professionally registered, you should look for a mentor that is either professionally registered or who has a good understanding of SE. INCOSE UK can help with this. The professional registration process is a great way to self-reflect on your strengths and shortcomings as an engineer so that you can determine where your focus is required.