



Case Study: CEng

Petra Hunt



TRANSFER

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Integration)

I am currently a Systems Engineering leader within the railway industry, and therefore act as a main point of contact for many systems integration workstreams, requirements and assurance processes. I provide guidance, as well as define and implement strategies to ensure the delivery of a safe, efficient and successfully integrated project. My journey into Systems Engineering started 6 years ago, which provided me with the opportunity to be part of some major, complex and complicated railway projects and allowed me to develop a keen understanding and appreciation on the importance of Systems Engineering.

Without having a formal Systems Engineering qualification, with both my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees not being directly linked to Systems Engineering, being Chartered with INCOSE UK fills this gap and allows me to identify as a systems engineer. My personal future ambitions are to complete the ASEP and CSEP qualifications, whereas my career ambitions are to continue promoting the principles of Systems Engineering, such as correct requirements management and efficient assurance processes, in particular within the railway industry.

Congratulations on transferring your Chartered Engineer (CEng) title to INCOSE UK. What inspired you to move your registration?

In 2019, I changed my career path from a design engineer to a systems engineer. At that point I was finalising my Chartership application for another institution that represented my career up to that point. Since then, I have become a member of INCOSE UK, gained experience and developed in the field of Systems Engineering, which I strongly support and believe is fundamental to delivering a variety of engineering projects. Therefore, after 5 years it felt natural to commence the transfer of my Chartership to INCOSE UK, as it reflects my chosen career path and the competencies that I now hold. The ability of transferring rather than completing a full Chartership application also made the decision easier.

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

The application process was fairly straightforward, with the online submission process being easy to request, follow and understand. I decided to join one of the online Professional Registration Clinic Webinars that are regularly offered by INCOSE UK before I started completing the required application form, which helped clarify a few points and also provided me with the confidence that I was following the correct path. The transfer application form was a little confusing because it didn't allow any attachments to be added to the form (e.g. your CV), resulting in my initial submission being rejected. However, with some support and guidance from the Professional Development Team, I successfully resubmitted with all the required information and experiences linked to the UK-SPEC A & B competencies within the application form itself. The process of documenting the experiences and providing the evidence against the competencies took a little bit of thought and time but it helped having an up-to-date CV and CPD to refer back to. However, it was completed a lot quicker than my initial Chartership application.

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

I was lucky enough to know some current INCOSE UK members that I have worked closely with in the past, who were happy enough to support my application. They provided me with help and suggestions on reviewing my submission and competency alignment, as well as providing me with a reference for the application.

Tell us about your experience of the assessment process?

To support a successful completion of the assessment process, I tried to provide enough information within my application. I checked and reviewed my experiences of the past 5 years to ensure they align with the UK-SPEC competencies (only A & B needed for transfers), providing good,

strong and relevant examples. This resulted in no further information or an interview being requested from the panel, making the transfer assessment very simple and efficient.

In what ways has registration benefited your career?

Professional registration is one of the essential requirements for any senior role in many engineering companies, and something that employers request individuals to have or be working towards. Personally, it has given me a great sense of achievement that increased my confidence and ability to evidence my competence within my day to day job role, that enabled me to follow my ambition of applying and successfully gaining a leadership role.

How does your employer benefit from your professional registration?

My employer is very keen on being able to provide competent staff to undertake their roles in delivering safe, efficient and successful projects. Demonstrating that the individuals on the projects have all the required competencies and are able to maintain their status is fundamental for continuously winning and delivering projects. Chartered Engineers gain a widely recognised competence that provides the employer and client with this confidence. In addition, there are currently few Chartered (Systems) Engineers, which makes this a novel and exciting opportunity to promote the awareness of Systems Engineering.

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

Being one of the main points of contacts around systems integration, I often provide guidance and support for a variety of project team members, including project managers, sponsors and project engineers. I often contribute and share my knowledge, thoughts and experience in working groups and the development of new / graduate engineers. Being a Chartered engineer and a member of INCOSE UK, I am keen to eventually fulfil my goal of supporting systems engineers that want to go through the professional registration process in the future.

Is there any advice you would pass on to someone considering transfer of their professional registration?

I would recommend to sign up for one of the online INCOSE UK Professional Registration Clinic

Webinars and not to be shy to ask for help as a first step. There is plenty of help out there, and lots of information on the INCOSE UK website as well. It is a very easy process that does not need you to go through the full application process again, only focusing on aligning your CV / experience against the UK-SPEC A & B competencies and, as was the case for myself, with no additional interview required. If you are working in the field of Systems Engineering, being a Chartered (Systems) Engineer can provide you with the additional support in a fast evolving branch of engineering.