



# Case Study: CEng

## Richard Beasley



I have worked at Rolls-Royce since 1986, working initially on engine installation, then system integration and then Life cycle engineering, before becoming a specialist Systems Engineer. I became a senior management level specialist in Systems Engineering in 2013. This role means I lead / support the implementation of Systems Engineering across RR, and help projects with the application of Systems Engineering. My biggest achievement is getting it accepted that in RR engineering the goal is to make "Systems Engineering the way RR does engineering", and for Systems Thinking to be an essential competency for everyone. The most enjoyable aspects of the job are

- helping others learn how to understand the scope and functionality of their System of Interest, be it an engineered system, or the capability to engineer systems
- having the opportunity to apply Systems Thinking and Systems Engineering principles regularly to anything and everything, and to be able to see the connections and define what is needed.

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

Two things inspired me to move – firstly I am far more active in INCOSE, and I am specifically a Systems Engineer, so I thought I'd prefer to have my CEng through INCOSE UK. Secondly, my company moving to only paying for membership of one Professional body, and the membership I want to keep is INCOSE, I had to "get on" and move my registration to INCOSE UK, which is the professional society I want to stay with.

Additionally, but not relevant to all, as an ex-President of INCOSE UK I felt it right that I should support and celebrate INCOSE UK's full membership of the Engineering Council by transferring my CEng to my "home" professional body!

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

It did not take a long time. The challenge, having recently done ESEP, was to go back to focusing on the UK SPEC CEng requirements. Since a lot of my role recently has been more focused on developing the enterprise capability to do SE, rather than specifically create a system it was hard to find the specific evidence needed to address creative solution development.

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

The transfer process only looks for one referee /

supporter, and the application is really about showing you are still practicing at CEng level – so gathering the information was relatively easy. Having completed an ESEP application a couple of years previously helped as I had reviewed my career history and thought about what the tasks / activities I have done meant in terms

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

The assessment process (for transfer) was even more painless than my original application. Having someone assigned to look over the application was very useful as it helped focus the application and make sure the right emphasis was made to align the activities to the UK Spec criteria. Since when I did the application we were all working from home due to COVID the most difficult thing was coordinating the signature on my application form. The transfer was very easy – simply reflecting on my activities over the past 5 years.

### In what ways has registration benefited your career?

Firstly, since I am a graduate in Physics, getting CEng has confirmed me in my profession as an engineer. For a number of the grade promotions I have had professional development, and at a certain level CEng are expectations, so CEng has enabled my promotions.

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

In some instances customers wish to be reassured that the employees are qualified, and so CEng is useful. But more it is the focus on professional development that it required, and reflection on which engineering skills I have and those I need to develop. Hopefully this has made me a better engineer.

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

I am a volunteer on a range of INCOSE activities, which is a tremendous benefit. Attendance and presentation at events helps me validate my SE insights, and learn from the developments others have made. As well as active in events I have been on a range of INCOSE working groups (notably the Competency WG), performed reviews of CSEP applications, and been President of UK chapter, and now the Deputy Director of Services on the whole INCOSE BoD.

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

- a) If INCOSE UK is the society you are most active in, and / or Systems Engineering describes the type of Engineer you are, then I highly recommend moving your CEng to your home professional body
- b) Whilst the application process is easy (it is

after provision of verification evidence you have met the requirements for the qualification – a SE approach!), I would recommend getting an advisor to review and help with application. Best is to do a full draft of application, and then get that second pair of eyes to check and help make it clearer

- c) Don't worry about the form – just get on and do it!