



Case Study: CEng

Urte Steponkute



Hello, my name is Urte Steponkute BEng(Hons) MSc CEng MINCOSE. I am Model Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) Lead at Leonardo. My role is focused on development of Leonardo's MBSE capability UK wide. This involves development of People, Processes and Tools and Infrastructure to enable our engineers to get the most value from adoption of MBSE approaches.

Alongside this, I am also leading a cross-organisation enterprise team developing an industry wide collaborative Digital Engineering and MBSE capability for the development of future air platforms. I enjoy applying Systems Engineering approaches to capability problems and promoting best practice in Systems Engineering. Before focusing on MBSE capability development, I held various Systems Engineering positions within Leonardo in a variety of technical domains including naval communications, electro-optics and electronic warfare.

The most enjoyable part of my current role is the ability to promote a Systems Engineering approach and spread knowledge about the benefits that MBSE can bring to wide variety of projects and programmes across Leonardo.

My biggest achievements include the progress made in MBSE adoption across Leonardo over the past two years including development of company MBSE process and MBSE learning material to help us grow this capability further. Outside of work I am busy looking after my 19 month old son and going to the gym when I get a chance!

In five years time I would like to have been at the forefront of developing an end to end Digital Engineering capability that by that point would hopefully be adopted in practice!

Congratulations on gaining your professional registration with INCOSE UK. What inspired you to apply?

I knew I would apply for Chartership from the first day of my BEng at University. It was mentioned as something that most professional engineers would do and therefore at that point I set out a goal to become chartered. It has been a long journey since with a lot of support from my employer and colleagues.

How did you find the application process through INCOSE UK?

I found the process very straightforward. I liked the structured format of application forms and the word limit helped me stick to the main points in my application.

Was it challenging to document all the workplace evidence required for the CEng application and did it take a long time?

Documenting the work experience undertaken regularly and matching it to the required competencies helps a lot when it's time to submit the application. Therefore I suggest applicants take some time regularly (e.g. once a month) to review what they've done in the workplace and see if any of it matches to the required competencies. Similarly this will help plan ahead if there are any competency gaps that need filling.

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

I was lucky to have great colleagues and mentors within the company who have got a CEng and were very happy to support my application.

How long did the application process take?

I submitted the application in August and received my CEng in February. I did have to re-submit my application form to clarify some of the evidence before it was approved for interview.

How did you find the professional review interview?

I was nervous coming into the interview but the panel made me feel at ease. In the end it was a relaxed conversation to talk through my experience in the different competencies.

In what ways has registration benefited your career?

It is still early days for me but it has certainly given me more confidence as an engineer that my knowledge and professionalism is recognised by the INCOSE UK community and the Engineering Council.

Do you have future plans to support others in the professional registration process?

Yes, I'd be keen to support future applicants in the process.

Finally, what advice would you give to future INCOSE UK CEng applicants?

Have a go at completing the form to understand where gaps (if any) in the competencies are - you are likely closer than you think. Also have a chat with your advisor for a second opinion. Go through old logbooks and emails to refresh your mind on the work done in the past as things can get forgotten! Focus on specific evidence to support the competencies (things done and artefacts developed by you) in the application form.