

I Am a Volunteer and I Do...

Alex Toth

What activities have you undertaken as part of your volunteering?

As a volunteer, I've had the privilege of participating in the INCOSE mentoring scheme, where I mentor others and give back to the community that has supported me throughout my career. Additionally, I'm involved with various working groups like Embedding Systems Engineering into Organisations (ESEIO) and have served as the immediate past chair of the Automotive UK Interest Group. These roles have allowed me to connect with other passionate individuals while deepening my understanding of Systems Engineering principles that we can all apply effectively in real-world situations.

What originally inspired you to volunteer for INCOSE UK?

What originally inspired me to volunteer was the opportunity to learn from those more experienced than myself. When I first joined a few groups, my primary goal was simply to observe and absorb knowledge. This approach has served me exceptionally well in my job and helped solidify my position as a trusted professional within the engineering community.

What do you get out of volunteering?

Volunteering offers immense satisfaction and fulfilment, especially when I see that spark of understanding in someone I'm mentoring. It's rewarding to help others grasp complex concepts by structuring knowledge into simple terms. By becoming a member of any Working Group or Interest Group, you not only stay current on developments but also actively contribute your own insights and experiences.



Do you have any advice or feedback to offer anyone who is considering volunteering?

For anyone considering volunteering but feeling intimidated—trust me, I've been there! Allowing fear to hold you back is a mistake; stepping outside your comfort zone can lead you to remarkable growth. The skills you gain extend beyond technical knowledge; they enrich your career trajectory significantly.

Ultimately, volunteering has empowered me not just as an individual but also as a Principal Engineer across various companies. Leveraging what I've learned from fellow members has enabled me to improve processes effectively while collaborating closely with senior management too and contribute meaningfully to the businesses that I work with.

So, if you're contemplating taking the plunge into volunteering at INCOSE UK —go for it! You'll discover profound rewards that come from connecting with others and embracing new challenges.