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WELCOME

Welcome to Register News – our last for 2009. It has been a very productive year for the Engineering Council, which began with the launch of our new register for ICT Technicians. Other highlights include the House of Commons reception we hosted in May, to launch our guidance on sustainability for the engineering profession, and our first conference on the subject of accreditation, which was very well attended.

We are ending 2009 with a new name, having dropped 'UK' to simply become the Engineering Council - you can read more about this below. Our change of name required a new logo and enabled us to rebrand. This also coincided with the update and relaunch of our website, www.engc.org.uk, which we hope you are finding much easier to navigate.

Register News also contains news and views on more general issues that are likely to be of interest to registrants, educators and institution staff. This includes work we've been doing with our partners in the industry, both in the UK and internationally, as well as projects with employers and academics.

On behalf of everyone at the Engineering Council, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Andrew Ramsay CEng
 CEO, Engineering Council

ENGINEERING COUNCIL REBRANDS TO REFLECT GLOBAL STANDING

Reflecting its growing international reach and influence, the Engineering Council has now dropped the 'UK' from its name. One of the key deciding factors is that the professional qualifications awarded by the Engineering Council - Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer and Engineering Technician - are fast becoming internationally recognised standards of competence. In an increasingly globalised economy this recognition is vitally important to employers.

Andrew Ramsay, Chief Executive Officer of the Engineering Council says, "A major benefit for engineers on our register and holders of Engineering Council accredited academic qualifications is that the rigour of our UK-SPEC assessment of competence is widely recognised by the rest of the world. In fact, the title Chartered Engineer is now one of the most recognisable international engineering qualifications."

A significant 25% of engineers on the Engineering Council's register now work outside the UK, and a further 10-15% of registrants are non-UK citizens. Individuals holding Engineering Council titles are currently present in 45 countries. This includes over 10,500 in Hong Kong, another 7,000 plus living in North America and a similar number in Australia/New Zealand.

Andrew Ramsay adds, "With so much importance being placed on our international activities and the growing interest in our titles from engineers outside the UK, it seemed appropriate to drop the UK part of our name, and to simply become known as the Engineering Council in future."

PONDERING ACCREDITATION

Accreditation of engineering degree programmes – current requirements and future challenges, the first Engineering Council conference of its kind, was hailed a success by the 80 participants. Mainly representing professional engineering institutions or academia, they made the most of the opportunity to review how the engineering profession goes about accreditation at present and how the process can adapt to the changing environment in higher education.

Key points which became apparent during the day included the need to focus more on the value, rather than the cost, of accreditation. Professional engineering institutions were encouraged to find ways of helping universities to protect the quality of courses in the face of severe pressures on budgets from 2010. In considering the wider value of accreditation, many felt that it should be viewed as a developmental process, with continuing dialogue between universities and the professional engineering institutions encouraged. It was agreed that this would be far more effective than the current approach, which places all the emphasis on a five-yearly visit.

The Engineering Council's Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Ramsay, commented, "It was encouraging to hear a consistent voice amongst participants in support of quality and outcomes as being key to address the future challenge of UK HE. We had some very good feedback from participants, and are now looking at establishing a webforum, to enable relevant stakeholder groups to keep discussion open on specific issues."

The full conference report and presentations can be seen on:

<http://www.engc.org.uk/education--skills/accreditation/accreditation-conference.aspx>



REVISED REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

The Registration Standards Committee and the Engineering Council Board have now approved revised regulations for registration. The revised regulations can be found on the Engineering Council website at:
<http://www.engc.org.uk/ecukdocuments/internet/document%20library/Regulations%20for%20Registration.pdf>

The revisions follow consultation with the licensed professional engineering institutions. They are intended to either clarify or to respond to changing external circumstances, rather than to place new burdens on individuals or obligations on the institutions.

For further information please contact Richard Shearman on rshearman@engc.org.uk.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT FOR WORK-BASED MSc

The Engineering Council and the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 have jointly sponsored research to gauge the level of employer support for employees working towards CEng status by way of a work-based MSc Professional Engineering with a research element.

The study explored the level of support amongst organisations that employ BEng graduates, taken from a sample of UK-based companies across a range of engineering sectors. The key findings include:

- 80% of the companies believe that the work-based Masters with a research component would encourage BEng qualified engineers to become CEng registered.
- 39% of the companies agreed that they would support their employees on the work-based Masters with a research element.
- 88% of the companies encourage BEng and MEng qualified engineers to become CEng registered.
- 96% engage with Universities in some way by either short courses (teaching) or research.

The report recommends that the Engineering Council encourages universities to work with interested industry partners to develop proposals for this type of MSc, and a briefing for interested companies has been held.

The full report can be found on:

http://www.engc.org.uk/ecukdocuments/internet/document%20library/Employers_workbased_pathway.pdf.

For more information please contact Deborah Seddon on dseddon@engc.org.uk.

END OF ENGINEERING COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS

The Engineering Council and City & Guilds have recently issued a joint statement announcing the cessation of the Engineering Council Examination after 2011. City & Guilds will offer one single re-sit opportunity as an examination series, in May 2012.

Administered by City & Guilds since 2001, the Engineering Council Examination has provided one means of meeting the academic requirements for professional qualification as a Chartered Engineer.

The records of all candidates who have undertaken any part of the Engineering Council Examination since 2001 will be retained by City & Guilds, in an electronic format only. They will respond to requests for affirmation of achievement for a period of ten years, i.e. until 30 September 2021. As now, such enquiries will attract a search fee.

Anyone wishing to seek advice on how this will affect them should address their query to the dedicated e-mail address ec_enquiries@cityandguilds.com. It should be noted that City & Guilds will not be able to respond through this address to challenges to the decision to withdraw the examinations.

IoN BECOMES A PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE

The Institute of Nanotechnology (IoN) has, this month, become the latest Engineering Council Professional Affiliate, underscoring the high importance it places on supporting the professional development of its members. On gaining membership of the Professional Affiliate scheme, the Coordinator of the Education Sub-group at IoN, Kshitij Aditeya Singh, commented "The Institute's success at becoming a Professional Affiliate of the Engineering Council is a recognition and reflection of its continuing endeavour in the field of education and professional development. The commitment to professional development, sharing best practices, implementing statutory guidelines and networking with learned organisations will bring tremendous long term benefit for members of the Institute."

Professional Affiliate status will allow IoN to work closely with other Institutes licensed by the Engineering Council, such as the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), with which it already has a memorandum of understanding to run a joint micro and nanotechnology network.

IoN's CEO, Dr Mark Morrison expanded on this further, "Membership of the Engineering Council further strengthens IoN's position in the support of higher, further and continuing education. IoN already works closely with a number of academic institutes to develop and share best practices for Masters courses in nanotechnology, and provision of training courses in sectors such as nanomedicine that are developing at a rapid pace. Through this affiliation we aim to work more closely with other learned and professional societies, contribute to the registration of new engineers and technologists (and their continued professional development) and in the future look to accredit courses in nanotechnology."

Further details on IoN can be found on: www.nano.org.uk. Further details on the Engineering Council Professional Affiliates scheme are on: <http://www.engc.org.uk/about-us/our-partners/professional-affiliates.aspx>

QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

The Engineering Council was represented by Colin Chapman at a St James's Palace reception in November, where winners of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education were announced.

Colin was nominated by the Engineering Council in 2006 as an assessor, and has participated in the last two biennial examinations of submissions for the UK's most prestigious educational awards. Colin adds value to the judging process as a Chartered Engineer who is involved in maintaining standards, as well as having an interest in academic achievement.

Around 20 prizes are awarded to universities and colleges across the UK every two years, for work of outstanding excellence within higher and further education.

For further details on the prize scheme please visit: <http://www.royalanniversarytrust.org.uk>

STRENGTHENING LINKS WITHIN EUROPE

The October FEANI General Assembly in The Hague provided an opportunity to strengthen links within Europe and reinforce the standing of Engineering Council registrants.

The FEANI Board reported that it has made a surplus for the past two years and will do so again in 2010, resulting in the organisation having a balance of one year's operating cost – a welcome change to the position ten years ago when Philippe Wauters, the current Secretary General took over. Not only has the financial position improved, but also the visibility of FEANI, especially with the European institutions, eg Commission, Parliament. This is due in large part to the contribution from Philippe Wauters, so his retirement in October 2010 will be a challenge and the Executive Board, on which the UK has a member, is currently seeking a suitable successor.

Another welcome change over the past ten years is that national members, who had previously viewed FEANI as interfering in their activities, have come to realise that collaborative action orchestrated by FEANI has produced results which individual initiatives would not have managed. This was confirmed by a workshop on the future of FEANI held as part of the business meetings. The consensus was that national members wanted FEANI to do more – not less. Good preparation by Engineering Council staff and volunteers ensured that our contributions to debate were sound and well articulated. With Engineering Council representatives on the Board and on committees, the UK is well placed to guide the future direction of FEANI.

For further information please contact Jim Birch: jbirch@engc.org.uk

NATIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY RECOGNISES IMPORTANCE OF TECHNICIANS

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) issued a White Paper during November on its national skills strategy, entitled 'Skills for Growth'.

The Engineering Council welcomes the statement contained in the report saying: "At present, there is a lack of recognition of the importance of technicians to the economy. Technicians should be confident that the qualifications they obtain carry a status and value that is recognised in the market place and not just by their own employer."

We are, therefore, currently talking with a number of bodies to look at how to take this forward, to ensure an increase in recognition of engineering and ICT technicians through registration with us.

A copy of the report can be found on: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/publications/Skills-Strategy.pdf>

HIGHER EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

The Government also issued a white paper on Higher Ambitions in November, providing a framework for Higher Education. This promises extra support for degrees in subjects such as engineering, which meet the need for high level skills. It also aims to increase work-based learning opportunities in engineering and other subjects. It can be downloaded from: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/publications/Higher-Ambitions.pdf>

ETB BECOMES EngineeringUK

From December 1st, the Engineering and Technology Board (ETB) has changed its name to EngineeringUK. Although the new name reflects a change of approach over the past year, the organisation will continue to promote the work of engineers, engineering and technology. Working with partners in the engineering institutions, business and industry and the education sector, it will now focus on three core work streams: the UK's most important science and engineering event for young people, The Big Bang; a programme of school activity called "Tomorrow's Engineers" and raising the profile of engineering and technology through the media and with policy makers. For more information please visit: www.EngineeringUK.com

ENGINEERING UK 2009/10

Launched by EngineeringUK at the beginning of December, the Engineering UK 2009/10 report paints a promising picture for engineering in the current political and economic climate.

The report contains research which shows 8 out of 10 people (85%) would now be willing to recommend an engineering career to family and friends. It also demonstrates that, despite a short-term fall in engineering vacancies, engineering salaries have increased 2.2 % during 2009. In addition, long term demand for engineers remains high, with a need to recruit over half a million (587,000) manufacturing workers with state-of-the-art-skills by 2017.

However, the sector still faces several key challenges in terms of supply:

- There has been a 30% decrease in Further Education (FE) Lecturers in engineering and manufacturing, and this could be linked to a shortage of advanced engineering skills. (Level three and above)
- There has been a 17 % drop in the number of Higher Education students going into Production and Manufacturing Engineering degrees
- Only 11.6 % of newly-registered engineers are female.

To download the full report please click on:

http://www.engineeringuk.com/what_we_do/education_&_research/engineering_uk_2009/10.cfm

A SINGLE VOICE ON UK ENGINEERING EDUCATION

A new independent organisation has been established for the first time to advise Government and the devolved assemblies on engineering education across the UK. Hosted by the Royal Academy of Engineering, the group known as Education for Engineering (E4E) will enable the profession to speak with a single voice to provide clear and cohesive advice in all matters relating to education in engineering. The Engineering Council is a member of E4E, as are the Professional Engineering Institutions and EngineeringUK.

The UK Government and the devolved Assemblies now have policies for the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers and on STEM teaching in schools and colleges. The professional engineering community needs to speak with a clear and consistent voice to provide relevant views on education issues if it is to impact on these policies, which affect the formation of future engineers and technicians.

Seeking opinion across the breadth of this community, E4E will ensure that Government receives the highest quality advice on STEM education from a single source, so that the education system produces people who are well equipped to keep pace with the technological changes in society.

"E4E is addressing a critical area that will support future economic development," says Dick Olver FREng, Chair of the Policy Group for the new organisation. "Unless the UK is able to educate, train, attract and retain good engineers at every level, our innovation skills will falter and opportunities will be lost."

"The science and maths communities are already well placed to influence policy development through SCORE and ACME respectively, and E4E will represent engineering in the same way."

The E4E website can be found at www.educationforengineering.org.uk

PARTY CONFERENCES TOLD: ENGINEERING SKILLS VITAL TO UK'S FUTURE

Fringe events were organised by the professional engineering community at all three party conferences during September. These were intended to raise the profile of engineering by strengthening national policy and also promoting the contribution of engineering to the UK's economic recovery and beyond.

Speakers for all parties - Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Vince Cable MP (Lib Dem), The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Conservative) and Lord Drayson, Minister for Science and Innovation (Labour) - agreed that engineering will play a crucial role in future and emphasised the importance of engineering skills to meet the challenges ahead.

The events were organised by Engineering the Future, an alliance of the engineering community including the Engineering Council, EngineeringUK, ICE, IChemE, IET, IMechE, IOP and RAEng – in association with the think tank Reform.

UK SCIENCE BODY LAUNCHES NEW PLANET

An interactive planet for the public to explore UK science and engineering was launched at the end of September by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) – the UK's largest government agency for research.

IMPACT! World - www.impactworld.org.uk is an innovative new website where users can explore how engineering and physical sciences research is helping to build the world around us and creating a healthy, productive and sustainable future.

Through films, stories, and an interactive planet, the website shows how research is helping to fight crime in police stations, save lives in hospitals, develop green forms of transport, informing government decisions and much more.

Science and Innovation Minister Lord Drayson said: "This new website shines a deserving light onto the contribution science and engineering make to the UK. It offers a fascinating insight into how home-grown technologies are tackling some of the biggest challenges we face such as improving our quality of life and stimulating the economy."

EPSRC Chief Executive Professor Dave Delpy said: "Engineering and physical sciences research is crucial to creating a healthy, prosperous and sustainable society. It has huge impact on the world around us. We hope this website and our IMPACT Campaign will help the public understand why research is so crucial to the UK's future."

IMPACT! World is the latest activity in EPSRC's IMPACT! Campaign, which aims to demonstrate how UK scientists and engineers are solving some of the biggest challenges facing society.

INNOVATIVE ENGINEER WINS PRIZE FROM WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY

A combination of innovative flair, perseverance and a passion for communicating the benefits of engineering has won Katy Deacon, an energy engineer with Kirklees Council, the Karen Burt Award for 2009.

Given annually by the Women's Engineering Society (WES) to a newly chartered female engineer, the Karen Burt award recognises both high achievement in engineering and a commitment to the promotion of the profession.

The award nomination focused on Katy's creation of the Renewable Energy Toolkit, which provides engineers and architects with guidance and tools for integrating renewable energy technology systems into building designs.

Katy works tirelessly to promote engineering and careers in engineering. As well as mentoring junior colleagues, she regularly gives schools' talks and has worked with the Bolton Technology and Innovation Centre to create a practical engineering workshop for girls from deprived areas. A long-term leader in the Scout Association, she is developing a year-long programme that will see local Scouts learning about issues relating to climate change and becoming more aware of their own impact on the environment to achieve their Green Footprint Award. Media work has ranged from Radio 4's Today programme to magazines such as Glamour and Cosmopolitan.

Katy is convinced that becoming a Chartered Engineer has helped her career progress. "My great passion is in using my skills and knowledge to help create a sustainable environment for the future," said Katy. "I have been fortunate enough to design and manage projects which have made a real difference to my local community and have been ground breaking in the UK. It has been my aim to achieve chartered status since I was an apprentice at eighteen years old; gaining CEng was the culmination of 10 years hard work. Now I would like to become a mentor for CEng candidates and work with the IET to encourage others to become Chartered Engineers".

The award commemorates Dr Karen Burt, an eminent physicist whose career was cut short by a tragically early death. She influenced many people with her enthusiasm for engineering, in particular she offered advice to companies on the recruitment and retention of women and became a role model and an inspiration to many women engineers and scientists.

More information on the Karen Burt award is available at <http://www.wes.org.uk/content/karen-burt-memorial-award>

ICE SALARY SURVEY REVEALS SHARP DROP FOR LOWEST PAID - BUT RICH GET RICHER ^

Salaries of civil engineers have fallen for the first time in seven years according to the Institution of Civil Engineers' annual survey.

The average income for civil engineers in the UK dropped by 0.3% to £47,282 in the 2008 tax year, breaking a steady run of increases since the survey's inception in 2003. Total salary, which includes secondary income and bonuses, fell by 1.7% to £51,899. This was due to significant drops in secondary income (21.5%), overtime income (7.6%) and bonuses (13.2%).

The fall has not affected all workers equally. The survey showed those on lower salaries have been affected more severely, with the bottom 10% of earners seeing significant falls in basic income of 6%. Conversely, the top 10% of earners saw moderate increases of 1.2%.

Job security was also a concern, with just 57% rating their job as secure or very secure. This sense of insecurity was highest among those classified as project workers, 18% of whom categorised themselves as on potentially shaky ground.

A significant proportion of members - 63% - stated that their company had resorted to redundancies in response to the economic downturn. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this was more likely to be the response of companies with a big employee roster (69% of companies employing 500 or more civil engineers, compared to 52% of companies employing 50 or fewer civil engineers).

Pay and hiring freezes also featured prominently in the list of measures taken (56% and 49% respectively). Pay cuts had affected less than 10%.

Other UK findings included an increase in average total starting salary for 2008 graduates of 2.6% to £23,965.

Internationally, Hong Kong salary remains almost unchanged at £55,661 but total salary drops 3.4% to £61,769. Both these figures are significantly higher than corresponding UK figures, 18% and 19% respectively. Job security is very high, with 70% rating their role as secure or very secure.

Average UAE basic income is 32% higher than in the UK, at £62,215. However, job security is much lower, with only 37% considering their roles to be secure or very secure.

The ICE's latest *Salary Survey* polled almost 9,000 members across the UK, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates in June 2009. The full report can be found at <http://www.ice.org.uk/salariesurvey09>

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