

Register News

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Welcome



Welcome to the March edition of Register News. You might notice that the newsletter has been given a fresh new look to reflect our recent rebrand.

For the Engineering Council, this year has got off to a flying start, with a number of interesting projects either planned or already under way. As you'll read below, new registrant numbers increased last year, and we are working hard with the professional engineering institutions to ensure that numbers continue to grow during 2010.

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

For me personally, 2010 signifies a year of change as, after 8 years at the helm of the Engineering Council, and many more years in professional engineering institution affairs, I shall be retiring in the summer. I will offer some personal reflections on the profession's progress in the next issue of Register News, but in the meantime please enjoy this review of industry developments within, and as seen from, High Holborn.

Andrew Ramsay
CEO, Engineering Council

Spotlight on Technicians

Amongst those concerned with the skills needs of the nation there has been a growing concern that the UK has failed over the years to promote and nurture technicians. The influential Leitch Report (2006) highlighted a shortage of "level 3" skills. Subsequent studies, including some recently published by the UKCES, demonstrated that a lack of recognition for technicians is holding back our economy.

The former Science Minister, Lord Sainsbury, prompted an initiative to address this in the recent Skills White Paper "Skills for Growth". He has offered to put the considerable resource of the Gatsby Foundation behind proposals to increase recognition of technicians and gain greater levels of participation in professional registers. The Engineering Council has been treated as a model of how such registers might be established and individuals assessed.

At the time of writing there are moves to introduce a Technician Council charged with developing and promoting registration schemes covering science and health as well as the existing Engineering Technician and ICT Technician registers. Efforts to engage key bodies like the Association of Colleges, and the relevant Sector Skills Councils are bearing fruit, with an imminent conference to bring major national employers together to discuss support for better recognition.

We will provide more information in our next issue.



EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

Despite being the professional level at which many practising engineers work (and a 10% increase in new registrations last year), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) is currently the most under-populated section of our register.

A typical IEng might be a competent engineer working in middle-management, responsible for a team or project, and probably involved in the application of technology in activities such as design, implementation, operation and maintenance. We estimate that tens of thousands of practising engineers could have the relevant standards of knowledge and competence to be eligible for IEng, but many are possibly unaware of this.

So how has IEng become the best kept secret of the profession? After all, the post nominals carry similar status to CEng. Those already registered, as well as their employers, hold it in high regard knowing that it is an internationally recognised qualification, proving their level of knowledge and competence as well as providing enhanced career prospects.

To address this question, the Engineering Council has set up a marketing group to look into ways of promoting awareness of IEng throughout the profession. The group consists of IEng registrants, representatives from professional engineering institutions and Engineering Council staff. It will be kicking off its work through a short survey of IEngs and their employers, to find out how they view the qualification and the process they went through to obtain it.

If you think you could help with this project, please contact our editor, Sue Brough on sbrough@engc.org.uk.

UK-SPEC revised



Following the Registration Standards Committee (RSC) approval of revised regulations, a slightly amended and rebranded UK-SPEC has been published. This can be found at: [/ecukdocuments/internet/document%20library/UK-SPEC.pdf](#)

The revisions include clarifying changes to the text in respect of the standard and individual route to EngTech qualifications. These can be found on pages 10 and 11.

In addition, ways to demonstrate the required knowledge and understanding for those applying for IEng or CEng, who do not have the exemplifying qualifications, have been revised and can be found on pages 18 and 26 respectively.

Rise in registrations

Our end of year registration statistics show a significant increase in the number of practising engineers recognising the value of gaining professional qualifications. During 2009 the number of new registrations for CEng was 9% higher than in 2008, while new IEng registrations have grown by 10%. In addition, there has been a net increase in the total number of EngTech registrants for the fifth consecutive year. The new ICTTech register, opened at the beginning of 2009, so far has 21 registrants having successfully completed the process, but with many more following in their footsteps.

Chief Executive, Andrew Ramsay says, "We've noticed a surge in enquiries about registration over the past year, and are pleased that our figures show how many of these have been successfully registered. No doubt the results are in part due to the competitive job market, as well as industry recognition of both the added status and the importance of being professionally qualified.

"We have invested in spreading the word about how professional registration improves job security and career prospects, and is open to any competent practising engineer, with different pathways available."

The rise in women engineers achieving chartered status has continued too, with women accounting for over 11% of total new registrants for the third year running. (12.4% in 2009; 11.6% in 2008; 11.4% in 2007). There has also been steady growth in the number of new female EngTechs for 2009.

Despite the healthy increases in new registrations, the overall register declined by 1.7%. However, the average age of Chartered Engineers leaving the register was over 62, and the decline generally reflects an ageing population reaching retirement.

Andrew Ramsay concludes, "We are confident that new registration numbers will continue to rise throughout 2010, and are working closely with the professional engineering institutions to ensure that applicants receive the necessary assistance with completing the registration process."

IMI licence revoked

Effective 21st January 2010, the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) licence, covering EngTech and IEng, has been revoked by mutual agreement. Existing IMI registrants have all been individually informed and, to ensure that they remain on the Engineering Council register, have 12 months to transfer their registration to another licensed professional engineering institution.

The Engineering Council will be happy to advise IMI registrants of their options. For further information please contact Adrian Bodimeade on abodimeade@engc.org.uk.

Workshops

The popularity of the Engineering Council's workshop programme continues to grow. 17 events are currently scheduled for 2010, including seven marketing related subjects. Amongst the other ten workshops, there are two new titles - Moderation and Licensing to ensure Continuous Performance Improvement.

The first of the two new workshops has been introduced as a result of our continuing efforts to improve consistency and transparency of registration across the licensed institutions. Institutions will normally have established processes for internal Moderation, but there is an increased need for everyone (institutions and external stakeholders) to have greater confidence in standards across institutions, and it is in this area where the process of Moderation needs to be developed further.

The second new title is a continuation of last year's New Approach to Licensing workshop. The focus this time is Continuous Performance Improvement (CPI). The CPI index indicates in general terms the status of an institution with regard to the licensing requirements. Made up of ten requirements, each assessed at three levels, this CPI Index will provide the Engineering Council with a view across all licensed institutions, thus enabling them to highlight trends, and areas of good practice or concern.

Both new workshops take place in March, although they will be repeated later in the year if there is the demand. For more information on these events and other titles in the series, please contact Tammy Simmons tsimmons@engc.org.uk or log on to our Extranet.

Engineering Gateways evaluation

All those involved in the introduction of the work-based MSc Professional Engineering degree programme - students, employers, universities, professional engineering institutions and the Engineering Council - have been surveyed by an independent consultant for their views about progress so far, and how far the original aims and objectives of the initiative are being met.

Analysis of the results is almost complete and a full report will be uploaded to our website in the next few weeks. Initial findings reveal a good level of satisfaction amongst those on the programme, strong commitment from the institutions involved and examples of where employees are already making a difference to their company through their planned MSc work. We're pleased to report that all stakeholders are committed to continuing to support and promote the programme.

Further information can be found on:
</education--skills/engineering-gateways.aspx>

Salary survey

The Engineering Council has once again commissioned ERS Research to carry out its bi-annual salary survey of registered engineers. The postal survey will be issued shortly to a sample taken from our register.

This year, for the first time, we are also surveying non-registered engineers through DJS Research, who will be contacting a number of company HR Managers.

We hope to be in a position to share the results of both surveys with you in a summer issue.

Guidance on Risk Issues

Following the success of last year's publication of guidance on sustainability for the engineering profession, the Engineering Council is now planning to produce similar guidance on risk.

To undertake this project, a working group of PEI representatives has been established under the chairmanship of Professor David Bogle FREng, who also chaired the Sustainability working group. The first meeting of the group was held on 26 February. It is anticipated that Guidance on Risk will be issued early in 2011.

Fair access to the professions

As part of its response to last year's report on Access to the Professions, the Government has now relaunched the Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum. Chaired by the Higher Education Minister, David Lammy MP, the Forum operates through five working groups. The Engineering Council is a member of two of these, one concerned with placements and internships, and the other with encouraging recruitment, training and progression in the professions. Some PEIs are also represented on the working groups.

The work offers a useful opportunity to make officials in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills aware of what the engineering profession does to encourage fair access. We will report on any further developments in the next issue.

Vacancies

Manager of Volunteer Activities

Due to an internal promotion the Engineering Council is currently looking for a new Manager of Volunteer Activities. This interesting and varied role involves recruiting, training, allocating and supporting around 80 volunteers who act as Liaison Officers for our 36 licensed professional engineering institutions.

If you would like more details and to find out how to apply please visit: </about-us/vacancies.aspx>.

Singapore recognition for UK degrees

We're pleased to announce that, as a result of Singapore joining the Washington Accord, all graduates with accredited UK degrees which come under the Washington Accord will now be recognised in Singapore.

For further details on international recognition of accredited qualifications, please visit: </education--skills/international-recognition-agreements.aspx>.

International Seminar

The Engineering Council is holding its third 'professional mobility and international recognition of qualifications' seminar on 24 May at the Institution of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST).

These seminars provide an ideal opportunity to update Professional Engineering Institutions and other interested parties on key international issues concerning recognition of UK engineers and their qualifications.

An impressive line up of speakers from around the globe includes the Chairman of the European Commission Internal Market & Consumer Affairs committee, Malcolm Harbour MEP, who will be giving this year's keynote address.

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

Institute of Water registration offer

Career prospects for engineers in the water industry are being boosted by an offer of free professional registration to CEng, IEng or EngTech status. This generous incentive has been made by the Institute of Water, which is waiving its usual £164.50 professional registration fee for applications received before 30 June.

"Becoming registered is an increasingly important career move for engineers," said the Institute of Water's chief executive, Lynn Cooper. "The Institute of Water is dedicated to supporting the careers of people working at all levels across the industry and has made this offer in recognition of the challenges many engineers face given the current economic climate."

Michael Fowle, the Institute of Water's vice president engineering added: "In today's business environment the achievement of engineering registration makes sense for both employers and employees. For the individual, recognition of achievements is particularly satisfying and in a market where many jobs are at risk, registration makes an individual more employable and again can be a differentiator.

"I have been a Chartered Engineer for 34 years and was one of the first to transfer my registration to the Institute of Water.

"Water engineering is an essential part of tackling climate change and thus the need for water engineers is as great as ever. The registration service provided by the Institute of Water is of great benefit to the industry."

For further details please visit:

<http://www.instituteofwater.org.uk/news/News.php?regionID=&newsID=1075>

EE2010: Inspiring the next generation of engineers

An abstract for a paper about the evaluation of the Engineering Gateways pathway has been accepted for the Engineering Education 2010 Conference at Aston University in July.

This international conference aims to provide a platform to consider how we can inspire the next generation of engineers, from attracting more young people to consider the profession through to engaging students in universities **and the workplace**. The conference is dedicated to enhancing the quality of higher education in all engineering disciplines and will serve as a forum for the sharing of innovation and effective practice. It will provide delegates with the opportunity to critically and creatively engage with new ideas and research that might support the development of activities and approaches in the future.

For further information please visit: www.ee2010.info

Athena bookmark project launched

At the end of January the Athena Forum launched its Bookmark Project to support post-doctoral researchers, in particular women, in **their career decision making**. **Joining Athena in this** simple and low-cost initiative, the first project partners are the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Universities of Cambridge and Loughborough.

The project's key message, promoted through 'bookmarks' adapted to the individual organisations taking part is 'As a post-Doc you are the future of UK engineering but are you in control of your future in engineering?'

The Athena Forum was set up to provide a strategic oversight of developments that seek to, or have proven to, advance the career progression and representation of women in science, technology, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) in UK **higher education**. For more information visit the website: <http://www.athenaforum.org.uk/>, where a guide and design for the bookmark can be downloaded.

Ford WISE Prize

Entries are currently being invited for the Ford WISE Prize, a once yearly female student prize, awarded by Ford in conjunction with WISE and the IMechE.

The award recognises the outstanding commitment and achievement by female undergraduates in all disciplines of **engineering**. It has been introduced to encourage and promote the potential of **engineering careers to women**. The winner will receive a cheque for £1,000. Closing date for applications is Monday, May 24th, 2010.

For further details and an application form, please visit the website: <http://www.wisecampaign.org.uk/fordwiseprize.cfm>

The Big Bang 2010

The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair kicks off National Science and Engineering Week and is being held at Manchester Central Convention Complex, from **11-13 March 2010**. The Big Bang celebrates and raises the profile of young people's **achievement in science and engineering**. It also aims to encourage more young people to take part in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) initiatives with support from their parents and teachers. Almost 20,000 students, families, teachers and lecturers have registered to attend the Fair, which will include almost 200 student projects showcasing innovation and creativity competing in the National Science & Engineering Competition for national and international awards. And this year the event will also be open to families with children aged 9-19 on Saturday 13 March.

Led by EngineeringUK, The Big Bang is developed in partnership with over 80 organisations from business & industry, government and the STEM community - with support from across the political spectrum. For more information, please see www.thebigbangfair.co.uk.

National Science and Engineering Week

National Science and Engineering Week is a 10-day long celebration of science, engineering and technology that sees people of all ages taking part in, and organising, a vast array of events across the country. In 2009, over 1.4 million people took part in 3,500 events throughout the UK.

Coordinated by the British Science Association, in partnership with EngineeringUK, with funding from BIS (the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills), National Science and Engineering Week aims to inspire and engage people from all walks of life directly with science, engineering and technology.

This year's theme - 'Earth' - is designed to coincide with the **International Year of Biodiversity**. In line with this theme, the British Science Association and iSpot have put together the "What on Earth" project. See www.whatonearth.org.uk

For further details about National Science and Engineering Week please visit: www.nsew.org.uk.

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