

Register News

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Welcome



Welcome to the September edition of Register News, the first issue since I joined the staff of the Engineering Council last month. I feel most fortunate and am grateful to Andrew Ramsay for handing over the tiller of a ship that is in such good order and is supported by an enthusiastic and committed team of both volunteers and employees.

I am pleased to report that new registrant numbers for this year are continuing to increase across the majority of our licensed institutions. There will no doubt be a number of reasons for this upward trend, but one of the key factors will be the time and effort expended by many in the promotion and encouragement of membership and registration, for which I thank you.

I very much look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and to getting to know many of you through the wide range of projects that the Engineering Council is involved in, both independently or working with our partners in the engineering profession.

Jon Prichard
CEO, Engineering Council

Professional Engineers in Demand

The Engineering Council's recent surveys of engineers and technicians confirms that those holding the professional engineering qualifications Chartered Engineer (CEng), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) or Engineering Technician (EngTech) are more likely to have held on to their jobs during the recession.

Asked their employment status, only 1.5% of registered respondents were "unemployed and seeking re-employment" in May this year, which sits well below the average figure of 8% reported by their non-registered equivalents. Although a big increase on the 0.6% of registrants in this category during 2007, it is clear that professionally qualified engineers are still in demand in the UK.

Based on responses from nearly 3,000 Engineering Council registrants, resident in the UK and below the official retirement age of 65, the first survey (Survey of Registered Engineers 2010) is one of a series that have been conducted regularly since 1981. Collection of this data every two to three years allows the Engineering Council and its partners to keep track of earnings and compare trends in the employment of registered engineers.

This year, for the first time, the Engineering Council commissioned a survey of non-registered engineers and technicians at the same time, in order to compare the two sets of results.

The Survey of Registered Engineers 2010 report can be found on the Engineering Council website at <http://tinyurl.com/3ywjuyk>. Results of the Non-Registered Engineers and Technicians Survey are still being analysed and the results will be uploaded shortly.

Pay Rises for Professional Engineers

The registrants survey also revealed that all sectors of the register have seen a rise in total earnings since 2007; up 10% for CEngs, 6% for IEngs and 12% for EngTechs. Median annual total earnings in 2010 were £55k for CEngs, £43k for IEngs and £37k for EngTechs.

For CEngs the increase in mean total earnings is somewhat higher, at 15%, accounted for by a considerable increase in the number earning more than £60k, including 11% now earning over £100k. Those employed in the energy and telecommunications sectors seem to enjoy the highest salaries, with mean annual earnings approaching £80k.

Further positive news is the slow but sure increase in the proportion of registered engineers who have their subscriptions and registration fees paid by their employer, with figures rising from 47% in 2003 to 57% in 2010.

New Associates for Engineering Council

The Engineering Council has announced the launch of a new category of adviser. 'Associates of the Engineering Council' are recognised as supporters of the organisation, who provide valuable assistance and support to its work through their knowledge, expertise and personal networks.

After accepting invitations from Professor Kel Fidler, Chairman of the Engineering Council Board, the first 22 Associates have been appointed this month.

Professor Fidler says "We are delighted to welcome such an eminent group as our initial Associates of the Engineering Council, and look forward to further building our relationships with them. We are sure that the Engineering Council and its many stakeholders will benefit hugely from the wider range of advice and assistance this scheme will provide in future, as will those taking part."

Promoting IEng



EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

The work of the IEng marketing group continues to gather pace. The results of the second survey, sent to individuals identified as being eligible for IEng but not registered, from seven PEIs, have now been analysed and the report uploaded to the Extranet. Designed to discover why they either haven't applied for IEng or have started but not completed the registration process, it looked at awareness and attitudes towards IEng and the progressive structure. 1917 members responded. Of these, 928 - who were not already registered, but aware of IEng - completed the whole survey. Key findings were:

- A lack of awareness of both IEng generally and about the requirements for eligibility. A surprising number of members weren't sure whether or not they were registered with the Engineering Council
- Those who were aware of IEng mostly knew of it through their PEI or through reading an engineering journal
- 269 claimed not to be aware that they could register for IEng through their PEI
- 70% believed that they were eligible for IEng, but a large number hadn't realised this prior to receiving the survey or hadn't got around to applying
- 47% of respondents felt their employer would value them being registered
- 46% claimed that they were only interested in achieving CEng registration
- When asked how the Engineering Council and the PEIs could encourage IEng registration the most popular response was that the profile should be raised across the profession.

A detailed IEng promotional plan has now been drafted, using different messages for different market segments, which will allow us to commence the process. However, as employer engagement is key to the promotion of registration a further piece of research will be carried out through employer focus groups, before some key activities can be commenced.

The marketing group is very aware that although the focus of this project is on raising the profile of IEng, it is of utmost importance that this should not be at the detriment of the other levels of registration. The campaign is purely setting out to bring the status of IEng registration up to match the level of recognition enjoyed by those with CEng status and to dispel some common myths about IEng being second rate. And, as IEng is not only a standalone qualification, some of the activities will serve to promote EngTech, ICTTech and CEng at the same time.

Accreditation Issues

A meeting for chairs of institutions accreditation committees to discuss developments in accreditation was held on 28 June, organised jointly by the Engineering Council and the Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB). The meeting also provided an opportunity to follow up some of the issues raised at the Engineering Council's conference on accreditation held last October. For details see: [/education--skills/accreditation/accreditation-conference](#)

The meeting was chaired by Professor Bob Cryan, chair of EAB and attended by representatives from seventeen institutions. In his opening remarks, Professor Cryan noted the encouraging increase in the number of requests for EAB visits over the past two years, and universities' feedback that joint accreditation is well received. The discussion was open, useful and supportive of the joint EAB accreditation process. Participants agreed that further work to encourage the sharing of practice would be useful, and that induction sessions should be developed for those involved in accreditation. Although it had been several years since the last meeting of accreditation committee chairs, participants felt it would be beneficial to hold another meeting in a year's time. For further details please contact Deborah Seddon on dseddon@engc.org.uk

As a result of the discussion, the Engineering Council is also holding a workshop on academic accreditation on 22 November, for institution members involved in accreditation. Further details about the workshop are available from cmiles@engc.org.uk

Technician Council Established

The Technician Council met for the first time in July, under the chairmanship of Steve Holliday, CEO of National Grid. The membership is drawn from the professions, employers in the engineering, ICT, science and health sectors, and official bodies. The Engineering Council actively supports its work and is pleased to be represented on the Council by Richard Shearman, Deputy CEO and Director of Formation.

Immediate priorities for the Technician Council will be to develop a common framework for technicians across the different sectors, based on competence, and to establish clear statements about the value of professional qualification for technicians.

For further details please visit: [/education--skills/technicians/professional-technicians-and-the-technician-council](#)



The Engineering Council and many of its licensed institutions will be attending the National Engineering & Construction Recruitment Exhibition (NECR) in Birmingham at the end of November. Exhibiting together in a 'Professional Engineering Resource Zone' will provide the opportunity to offer visitors advice and information about membership, professional development and registration.

We will be joining exhibitors from among some of the top engineering and construction companies. The exhibition provides a forum for delegates at all stages of their career, from graduate to senior professional, to seek employment and discuss their professional and career development opportunities.

Seminars running throughout both days of the exhibition provide further information on career opportunities at the exhibiting engineering and construction companies. As part of this programme, the Engineering Council will present how professional registration and institution membership can benefit both individuals and their employers. In addition, a range of free advisory services will be available to visitors; these include a Careers Advice Lounge offering guidance on finding the perfect job, a CV Clinic providing expert tuition in CV writing, and an Interview Clinic offering practical advice on interview technique.

Final-year university students can take part in University Challenge, a competitive event in which teams design, build and test their inventions.

The National Engineering & Construction Recruitment Exhibition takes place on 26 & 27 November 2010 at the NEC, Birmingham.

For further details please visit: <http://www.engineerjobs.co.uk/>

New MPs Reception

Together with our *Engineering the future* partners, Engineering Council representatives attended a new MPs breakfast meeting on 30 June at the House of Commons. The event was hosted to enable MPs to meet and speak to members of the engineering community.

Over 30 parliamentarians attended, including 22 new MPs and speakers included Professor Snowden FEng President of IET, Kate Bellingham STEM Careers Ambassador and Andrew Miller MP Chair of the Science and Technology select committee. A number of follow-up opportunities with MPs are subsequently being progressed.

Engineering Subject Centre's Teaching Awards



We would like to congratulate Rachel McCrindle from the University of Reading, who is this year's winner of the Engineering Subject Centre's Teaching Awards, sponsored by the Engineering Council. The judges felt that Rachel's project 'Software Engineering - Learning through Innovation and Interaction' showed real commitment and enthusiasm to her teaching, which has had a huge positive impact on her students. She was presented with a certificate and £1000 towards future conference expenses at an awards presentation during the Gala dinner at the EE2010 conference at Aston University on 7th July.

The Engineering Subject Centre's Teaching Awards, covering England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, have been running for over five years and provide an opportunity for engineering academics to receive national recognition for their outstanding learning and teaching practices.

The closing date for 2011 award applications is fast approaching - Friday 17 September. To apply, or to nominate a colleague, simply identify one of your teaching methodologies which has been proven to enhance the student learning experience and provide details on the brief application form at: <http://engsc.ac.uk/teaching-awards/2011>

For more information contact Alex Fenlon on alex@engsc.ac.uk or 01509 227192.



International Engineering Alliance Meeting

The Engineering Council's Head of International Recognition, Jim Birch, attended the International Engineer Alliance (IEA) meeting held in Ottawa in June this year, in his capacity as FEANI Board member.

The IEA is the umbrella body which coordinates six international agreements, the Washington, Sydney and Dublin Accords covering mutual recognition of engineering education, and the Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF), Engineering Technologists Mobility Forum (ETMF) and APEC Engineer which are concerned with mobility of professionally recognised engineers and technologists.

In the past few years substantial progress has been made towards further increasing the mutual recognition of engineering education and of professional qualifications between the IEA partner countries, which collectively represent a significant part of the global engineering economy. The Ottawa meeting, while not introducing any revolutionary initiatives, continued to build on this trend.

It was confirmed that the recently revised IEA graduate attributes together with the IEA professional competences were effectively international standards defining engineering education and professional registration criteria. Delegates recognised that there were regional groupings active in the same areas and that the IEA should work with these organisations to explore possibilities of alignment and inter-recognition. The IEA and European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAAEE) already have a joint working group looking at this in the field of accreditation of engineering education. Proposed changes in emphasis of the objectives of the EMF, ETMF and APEC Engineer could facilitate the participation of FEANI as a European grouping.

Although no new organisations were admitted as full members of the various agreements, a number were given provisional status, including those from Turkey and Pakistan who were both entering the IEA for first time.

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

Educating School Children

Photonics Explorer is an EU-funded project being run by the Department of Applied Physics and Photonics at the University of Brussels, investigating how young people can be motivated to pursue science and engineering education.

As FEANI members we have been asked to assist in gathering views from individual engineers on what a career in science and/or engineering can offer to young people and what it takes to be an engineer or scientist. For more information on the project, or to have your say please visit: www.PhotonicsExplorer.eu/Q/My-job-as-researcher

HEBRG Launched to Higher Education Sector

As reported in the last issue of Register News, the Higher Education Better Regulation Group (HEBRG) was launched to the UK higher education (HE) sector on June 24 at Woburn House. HEBRG is a new organisation but as the successor to the Higher Education Regulation Review Group (HERRG) it has a pedigree stretching back for more than a decade.

In its final report published in 2008, HERRG recommended that the sector itself should form a group dealing with regulation across the UK, and through the sponsorship of Universities UK and GuildHE this new group was established.

The role of HEBRG is to promote a positive approach to regulation that upholds the five principles of good regulation. These principles state that any regulation should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted.

Current work for 2010-11 includes mapping the emerging accountability and regulatory framework in HE, revising and updating the Higher Education Concordat, supporting engagement between the sector and professional, statutory and regulatory agencies that influence its activities, and exploring the regulatory impact of research activity.

Among the line up of speakers at the launch was Professor Kel Fidler, Chair of the Engineering Council, who concluded "The Engineering Council has been invited to participate because the final report from HERRG cited the engineering profession's approach to degree accreditation as an exemplar for other professions to follow. I therefore welcome the establishment of the Better Regulation Group and the fact that it is owned, if I may put it that way, by the HE sector. I hope that it will be able to foster a continuing dialogue between universities and professional bodies, as well as other organisations such as the QAA, so that we can ensure that our shared interest in high quality and innovative provision is vigorously promoted. Certainly we in the engineering profession look forward to working with the group and wish it well."

For further information visit: www.hebetterregulation.ac.uk



We reported in March on an offer made by the Institute of Water (IWater) to waive its usual £164.50 professional registration fee for applications received before 30 June. The IWater was delighted with the response, which looks set to boost its new registrant numbers for 2010 by over 1000%. Out of 47 applications 14 of its members are already at various stages of the registration process (5 CEng, 7 IEng, 2 EngTech), including two who have quickly completed the interview process for registration as IEng.

"We made this offer in recognition of the challenges many engineers have been facing given the current economic climate, so it is pleasing that so many members have taken advantage and submitted applications," said the Institute'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 we are pleased to be able to bolster our members' careers through offering professional registration."

Innovative Engineering Crucial to Tackling Climate Change

Over 200 climate change, environmental and engineering experts came together at the end of June to discuss the crucial role of engineers in the global battle against climate change. They stressed that engineers must be innovative in their practice to provide a sustainable future for communities around the world.

The two day Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) conference - Innovate to Survive: Engineers for a One Planet Future® - brought together high profile speakers and delegates from across the globe to discuss how the importance of innovation in engineering can underpin a low carbon future.

For further details on the conference and its outcomes please visit:
<http://ice-innovatetosurvive.com/>

2010 Young Woman Engineer Awards

The Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) has today announced the availability of tickets for the 2010 Young Woman Engineer Awards ceremony. Tickets for the ceremony, which will take place in London on 8th December 2010 at 7pm, are free and available to everyone, on a first come first served basis, simply by registering at <http://www.theiet.org/ywe>.

The winners of the IET Young Woman Engineer Awards are chosen by the IET Awards and Prizes Committee for presentation at the ceremony, which will be hosted at IET London: Savoy Place by 'Bang Goes the Theory' presenter and wild animal biologist Liz Bonin.

Sponsored by GCHQ, National Grid, Transport for London, RS, Jaguar, Land Rover, E.ON and The Royal Air Force, the IET Young Woman Engineer Awards are made up of three coveted prizes that recognise the very best female engineers under the age of 30 working in the UK today. Each an industry recognised award in itself, the Young Woman Engineer Awards seeks to highlight the achievements of young women in engineering and aims to encourage and inspire others to enter the profession.

London Design Festival

This year for the first time the Royal Academy of Engineering will be participating in the London Design Festival by staging a programme of activities. Running from 20 - 23 September, the theme of the programme is Designing a low carbon infrastructure for London.

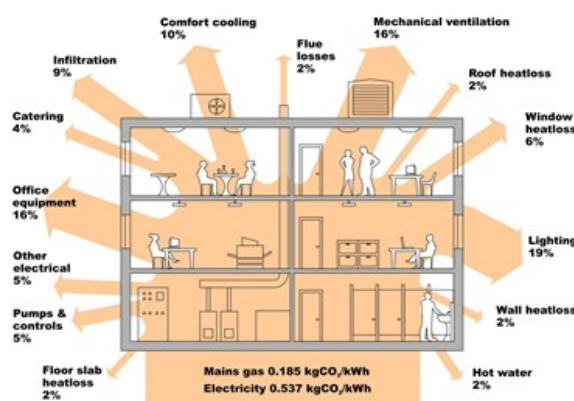
The aim is to showcase the latest cutting edge technology that has been developed and implemented to mitigate the effects of fossil fuel usage and dependence in transport and buildings, not just in London but in any large city in the UK.

One day will be dedicated to Innovation, which includes a talk by entrepreneur Richard Farleigh followed by the final of the Royal Academy's own Innovation Hothouse. This will be judged by a group of venture capitalists and business angels who will be looking to invest in the student projects being presented.

The finale is to be marked by an Inaugural Engineering Design lecture given by Keith Clarke, CEO of Atkins. Keith's recent Brunel lecture made very clear the case that achieving a low carbon society requires a new industrial revolution; this augurs for a fascinating lecture and Q&A!

All events are being held in the public areas of the Royal Academy's building at 3 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. Tickets are free and available from ian_bowbrick@raeng.org.uk.

Further information is available at: http://www.raeng.org.uk/education/ldf_2010.htm





Would you like to act as an inspiring role model to young people? Can you demonstrate science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) in action or perhaps talk about where your career has taken you?

If so, why not register as a STEM Ambassador today?

The STEM Ambassadors Programme enables anyone with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills to inspire young people (5-19 year olds). STEM Ambassadors demonstrate the possibilities of STEM subjects and careers by revealing how essential STEM is throughout the world in which we live.

STEMNET currently has over 22,000 Ambassadors available to work with young people, teachers and schools and the number is growing every day. The occupations of STEM Ambassadors are very wide ranging, including environmental scientists, aerospace engineers, marine biologists, pharmacists, apprentices and energy analysts to name but a few. Anyone who uses STEM in the world of work and who is willing and able to enthuse young people about STEM subjects can apply to become a STEM Ambassador. Ambassadors also have the benefit of sharing their resources and ideas on promoting STEM to young people via STEMNetworking which is a new area of the STEMNET website: <http://networking.stemnet.org.uk>.

The Programme is funded by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and is already supported by employers in every part of the UK who encourage their staff to become STEM Ambassadors.

The STEM Ambassadors Programme is coordinated nationally by STEMNET and managed locally by a network of STEM Ambassadors contract holders. (http://www.stemnet.org.uk/contact_us/local_contacts.cfm).

To find out more about the STEM Ambassadors Programme and how you can register as a STEM Ambassadors go to: www.stemnet.org.uk or contact STEMNET directly at info@stemnet.org.uk.

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair

An independent evaluation for The Big Bang 2010, carried out by the Centre for Science Education at Sheffield Hallam University, shows an overwhelmingly positive response from attendees: two thirds of secondary school pupils saw engineering careers in a more positive way as a result of attending; over 80% of teachers said they would incorporate experiences from the Big Bang in their lessons; and 60% of parents said they learned from the event with over 80% saying they would like to attend in future.

Planning for next year is now well underway, when The Big Bang will be held at ICC London ExCeL from 10 - 12 March 2011. For more information about how to get involved go to: http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/get_involved.cfm

Education for Engineering

Hosted by The Royal Academy of Engineering, with a wide membership drawn from the professional engineering community, Education for Engineering (E4E) has developed guidance, setting out **priorities for the coalition government**. The 'E4E briefing on education and training for engineering' identifies six immediate policy priorities:

- Promote the standing of qualified technicians and highlight the **contribution of professional engineers and technicians to society and the economy**
- Support careers education and guidance on **professional engineering and technology careers**
- Clarify and support engineering-related **qualifications**
- **Reinforce teaching expertise**
- Reinforce subject/discipline and inter-subject CPD, including industry experience
- Take steps to enable a more diverse engineering workforce.

The full briefing can be found on: http://www.educationforengineering.org.uk/policy/pdfs/E4E%20Report_Layout%201.pdf

For further information on E4E, including news updates related to education & training policy, please visit: <http://www.educationforengineering.org.uk/default.htm>

My Sparkling Career

Hosted by the Women's Engineering Society (WES) 'My Sparkling Career' will be held on Saturday 18 September at Aston University, during the **British Science Festival**. Professor Julia King, Vice Chancellor of Aston University, along with others working in engineering and technology, will introduce attendees to this exciting world and share with the audience their sparkling careers and the **endless possibilities available in these fields**.

There is no charge for attendance of the event. For further information please visit: <http://www.wes.org.uk/content/julia-king-announced-speaker-my-sparkling-career>

Or to book visit: <http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/forms/festival/events/showevent2.asp?EventID=333>

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