Knowledgeable roads engineer gains recognition

Lack of a relevant honours degree is no hindrance to becoming professionally qualified through CIHT. Edinburgh based Amey project manager Neil MacDonald is the first to become Chartered through the ‘technical report’ option.

This involves a written submission to demonstrate full understanding of relevant engineering principles before applying for professional review. “Becoming Chartered was always an aspiration of mine and I am pleased that CIHT offers this route for people like me who have gained experience from working on many major projects,” says Mr MacDonald. “Having the letters CEng after my name should help me to progress my career and allow me to develop my managerial capabilities.”

After leaving school Mr MacDonald gained an HNC in Civil Engineering and joined Perth & Kinross Council as a roads supervisor; later becoming a technician before joining Amey as a roads engineer in 2001 and becoming a member of CIHT a year later.

Mr MacDonald’s career of 20 years has involved both the construction and maintenance of highways. His work has focused in particular on development of more durable and cost effective surfacings and he works closely with suppliers who produce new materials. For the last three years, Mr MacDonald has been a member of the Scotland Pavement Forum which looks to promote new highway maintenance techniques, while over the past year his Amey team has helped to introduce the Managed Motorway concept on the M5 and M6 near Birmingham by upgrading hard shoulders.

Becoming Chartered took around 18 months, Mr MacDonald says. Completion of a technical report was followed by his professional review; an interview with CIHT representatives in London and the compilation of a portfolio of evidence, which forms part of the review.

“The overall process was relatively straightforward and I’m grateful for the support of CIHT staff, but commitment is needed to go down the technical report route,” he says.

Neil MacDonald CEng MCIHT.
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