

Register News

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Welcome



Recent events around the globe - flooding in Queensland, earthquakes in Christchurch and tsunamis on the North Eastern coast of Japan - have highlighted the fragility of man's infrastructure, and our dependence on **technology**. Our thoughts go out to those impacted by these national disasters.

At the same time, we must reflect upon the role that professional engineers have to play in managing risks and mitigating the effects. The Engineering Council's launch of its Risk Guidance is therefore timely, complementing our previously launched guidance on sustainability.

I am also delighted to see a significant increase in the number of engineers choosing to register for the first time during 2010, although we must not forget the problems associated with the numbers of experienced engineers being lost to the profession at the tail end of their careers.

There are many positive initiatives highlighted in this issue of Register News, and I look forward to developing these ideas and many others with you over the coming months.

Jon Prichard
CEO, Engineering Council

Rise in new registrants against overall backdrop of predicted fall

The Engineering Council's Annual Registration Statistics for 2010 show that the growing awareness and appreciation of the benefits of professional registration, amongst the engineering profession and its key employers, has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of new registrants during 2010. However, numbers on the register overall have continued to decline by just over 1%, which is in line with expectations based on the UK's demographics as a whole.

Compared to 2009, there has been an increase of 26% in the number of new Chartered Engineers (CEngs), a 64% increase in new Incorporated Engineers (IEngs), and a 12% increase in new Engineering Technician (EngTech) registrations. This represents the second year of growth for new IEngs and CEngs and the sixth consecutive year that the number of new EngTechs has risen.

Jon Prichard, Chief Executive Officer of the Engineering Council says, "As has been recognised by the UK Coalition Government, having sufficient highly skilled and professionally qualified engineers within the employment market place is key to enabling economic growth and addressing the 'grand challenges' facing society at large. Registration provides the benchmark through which the public can have confidence and trust that those holding the titles work to the highest standards and have had their competences independently and thoroughly assessed. Without this, UK qualified engineers would not be able to maintain the high esteem that they currently hold within the global engineering profession.

"The UK has an ageing population, and with the number of registrants aged over 60 still representing 37.4% of those on the register, the inevitable loss of skills and knowledge over the coming years remains of concern. Therefore, working to ensure an increase in new registrants, and retaining those who are professionally qualified for the full duration of their working life, is also of key strategic importance to the engineering profession."

The full Annual Registration Statistics 2010 are available on the Extranet.

The Engineering Council has just launched an important new guidance document covering the management of risk. 'Guidance on Risk for the Engineering Profession' provides generic advice and is relevant to the challenges faced by all those in the profession. It establishes six principles to help engineers and technicians meet their professional obligations, and to ensure that the identification and management of risk is an important consideration in their everyday engineering activity.

The new document is similar in format to the sustainability guidance, published by the Engineering Council in May 2009, which has been well received by the profession and is commonly referred to by academics and practitioners alike.

Speaking at a launch event, held at University College London, Professor Kel Fidler, Chairman of the Engineering Council, said "Risk is inherent in the activities undertaken by professional engineers. Members of the profession therefore have a significant role to play in managing and limiting risk."

The guidance has been developed by a working group chaired by Professor David Bogle FREng CEng, comprising members of ten professional engineering institutions with additional input from a number of other organisations including the HSE and members of the Hazards Forum.

Professor Bogle comments "The working group included considerable expertise across a range of engineering disciplines. This, and the wide interest from members of the engineering profession, has helped to ensure a sense of ownership amongst the profession, and it made sure we produced something that will have wide relevance. It also acts to demonstrate to society the engineering profession's commitment to managing risk effectively."

Judith Hackitt CBE FREng CEng, Chair of the HSE, says: "Understanding and managing risk is an essential and integral part of every engineers' role. From design through construction operation and ultimate demolition, when superseded by new technologies, the changing risk profile needs to be identified and the most important risks addressed as far as they can be even though they may not be eliminated. I very much welcome the publication of this risk management guidance and the Engineering Council's decision to embark on such a project. It is a timely reminder of the important principles for experienced engineers and an invaluable tool for new engineers of all disciplines."

The new guidance replaces the Code of Professional Practice on Engineers and Risk Issues produced nearly twenty years ago by the Engineering Council.



l to r: Speakers, Prof Anthony Finkelstein CEng, Dean of Engineering Sciences Faculty, UCL; Judith Hackitt CBE FREng CEng, Prof David Bogle FREng CEng, Prof Kel Fidler FREng CEng

Further details and a copy of the guidance document can be downloaded from: www.engc.org.uk/risk . A handy wallet card listing the six risk principles on one side with those for sustainability on the other, is available from: info@engc.org.uk

Gateways five years on

March 2011 marks five years since the Engineering Council began work on the 'Gateways project'. Initially conceived as a five year project, the work was funded for the first two years (2006-2008) as part of the government-funded 'Gateways to the Professions' initiative.

The flexible pathway to registration as a professional engineer, in which higher education and professional development are integrated through a work-based learning approach is now firmly established. It allows individuals to minimise the level of debt incurred while studying, at the same time maximising their employment and earnings potential, and serves to attract to the profession those who might not otherwise have aspired to professional status, and to engage employers in the development of the profession.

The recent announcement of the first two graduates from the MSc Professional Engineering courses at Kingston (see below) and Staffordshire Universities mark a key milestone. There are more than 70 individuals from a range of companies now enrolled on the MSc Professional Engineering programmes at five universities, with numbers set to grow. So far, twelve professional engineering institutions have signed up to support the programmes and a Bachelors level equivalent was recently launched, aimed at those aspiring to Incorporated Engineer (IEng) status.

Throughout the five year period the project has been strongly collaborative. Employers have welcomed the pathway, in particular its flexible nature and the learning contract approach. The employees enrolled as work-based students have welcomed the opportunity to continue working while they gain a professional qualification, and some say they anticipate better promotion prospects. The strong support secured from the professional engineering institutions (PEIs) is key, given their future role in both considering the degrees for accreditation and in assessing individuals' professional development leading to the award of professional status.

The Engineering Council is committed to continuing this work as an integral part of its on-going activity, and is pleased that the other stakeholders have also confirmed their continued commitment to being involved. Future priorities include carefully managed expansion of provision to ensure that quality is not jeopardised, and securing wider employer participation.

Further information is available at : </education--skills/engineering-gateways> or contact Deborah Seddon: dseddon@engc.org.uk

Gateways celebrates first graduate

Dean Carran became the first graduate of the Gateways work-based MSc Professional Engineering programme when he was presented with his certificate at a graduation ceremony held at the Rose Theatre in Kingston in January.

After graduating from Kingston in 2006 with a BEng degree in aerospace engineering, Dean set up JNDC, his own engineering consultancy business, and was initially just focused on getting it off the ground. "As my business grew and developed, I realised that there was a definite benefit in being recognised as a Chartered Engineer (CEng) within the aerospace industry," he explained. "I couldn't afford the time to go back to university full or even on a formal part-time basis to gain the academic qualifications that would lead to Chartered status though, so the work-based Masters degree at Kingston seemed ideal as it let me build my Masters modules around my day-to-day work. It's been a real benefit to both me personally and my company."

Leader of work-based learning at Kingston's Faculty of Engineering, Mike Hope, said Dean had made good use of his Masters programme both to enhance his own engineering learning and to boost his business. "For engineering companies, having staff with Chartered status is important because this demonstrates attainment of the industry gold standard to their clients and denotes a high level of knowledge and experience," he said. For individuals, too, being a CEng means that their professional competence is recognised, which greatly adds to their employability in the workforce. "The new programme enables engineers to structure their MSc learning round the professional engineering tasks they undertake at work, without the disruption of time away from their company. In turn, this helps to attract people to the profession who might otherwise not have achieved professional status," Mr Hope said.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers had already confirmed that Dean's MSc would provide him with the academic requirement for CEng registration. This, alongside the competences he has acquired through work, enables Dean to apply to IMechE for the CEng professional qualification, using work from his MSc to demonstrate some of the required competences.

Jon Prichard, Chief Executive Officer at the Engineering Council said: "We would like to congratulate Dean on being the first graduate of the MSc in Professional Engineering. With university tuition fees set to rise dramatically in 2012, studying for a first degree is likely to be a difficult enough financial choice for students, so deciding to take time away from work to do an MSc is going to be an even tougher decision. We hope that many more students will consider taking advantage of the opportunity that an MSc in professional engineering presents, without having to take a break from employment."

Further details are available at: </education--skills/engineering-gateways>



l to r: Dean Carran, Deborah Seddon from the Engineering Council and Dr Peter Mason, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Kingston University, at the graduation ceremony.

Survey reveals professional qualifications are truly valued

A survey carried out by The ENDS Report in collaboration with the Chartered Institution of Water & Environmental Management (CIWEM) and the Society for the Environment (SocEnv) has revealed that professional qualifications are valued by both employers and employees. For some this is evident through increased business opportunity, and for around 20% of respondents it has been reflected in a direct salary increase.

Acting Chief Executive of SocEnv, Kerry Geldart, said "this particular finding from the ENDS survey reflects the importance employers and individuals place on professional registration, particularly in times of austerity, giving individuals a competitive edge in the market place."

And despite many organisations facing tighter budgets, the level of employer support for professional development remains generally high. Two-thirds of respondents said their organisation offered financial assistance for professional development and most have taken advantage of it; almost three in five said they had undertaken formal training in the past year.

Rosemary Butler, Director of Membership & Professional Development at CIWEM said, 'this is an extremely valuable piece of research and bears out our findings that more and more applicants for CIWEM membership also seek the CEnv or CEng qualification to add real and tangible value to their career progression.'

A full report of the Survey's findings will be published in the March edition of the ENDS Report

IEng marketing update

As reported in previous issues of Register News the Engineering Council has undertaken three pieces of research into Incorporated Engineer (IEng) registration, the results of which are being used to develop a promotional campaign aimed at raising the profile of the professional qualification, as well as increasing awareness of its value to individuals, employers and society.

We have drafted a marketing plan and are currently working on the next phase, which is to design creative materials for the campaign, while working closely with colleagues from the PEIs, to ensure an effective and consistent roll out over the next couple of months.

Thank you to readers who offered to become IEng case studies. We are always looking for more, so anyone registered as IEng who would be willing to share their story should contact Tammy Simmons on tsimmons@engc.org.uk

Examples of existing IEng case studies can be seen at: </professional-qualifications/incorporated-engineer/case-studies>

Engineering Council Associates prove invaluable resource

The first 22 Associates of the Engineering Council, appointed last September, attended a reception at the Engineering Council's offices in March along with the Board of Trustees. Already, more than half of the Associates have provided advice, comments and support on a range of issues, including international matters, **governance and education**. Others have supported us by undertaking activities such as chairing steering groups or representing the Engineering Council as speakers at events or in meetings.

Welcoming the Associates to the event, Prof Kel Fidler FEng CEng, Chairman of the Engineering Council, said: "The Engineering Council is a small organisation with limited resources, which couldn't achieve the results it does without the assistance of volunteers. **Our new Associates are all experts in their own fields, and provide the organisation with an invaluable resource. We are extremely grateful that they have all responded positively to our invitation and the support they've provided since September has already proved very useful.**"

In his response on behalf of the Associates, Prof Bob Cryan, Vice-Chancellor of Huddersfield University, said: "**I would like to respond in terms of 3P's. The first is the pride that the Associates share in being part of the Engineering profession and the opportunities that it has given us, the second is the privilege that we all feel in being asked to be Associates of the Engineering Council and the third is to salute the spirit of partnership that exists between the Engineering Council and its volunteers. We all feel deeply honoured to be appointed as Associates and look forward to building on the existing partnerships in supporting the Engineering Council as it develops over the coming years.**"



Prof Bob Cryan CEng and Prof Kel Fidler FEng CEng

Increased presence at engineering recruitment fair

Following the success of its launch last year, the Engineering Council and Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) will once again be exhibiting together on the Professional Development Hub at The National Engineering & Construction Recruitment Exhibition (NECR) at the NEC, Birmingham on 6 & 7 May 2011.

The Professional Development Hub will cover more engineering disciplines for the May exhibition, with a greater number of PEIs taking part. This means that there will be an increased number of representatives on hand to advise visitors about their professional development options, including information about institution membership and professional registration.

Institutions attending the Professional Development Hub are:

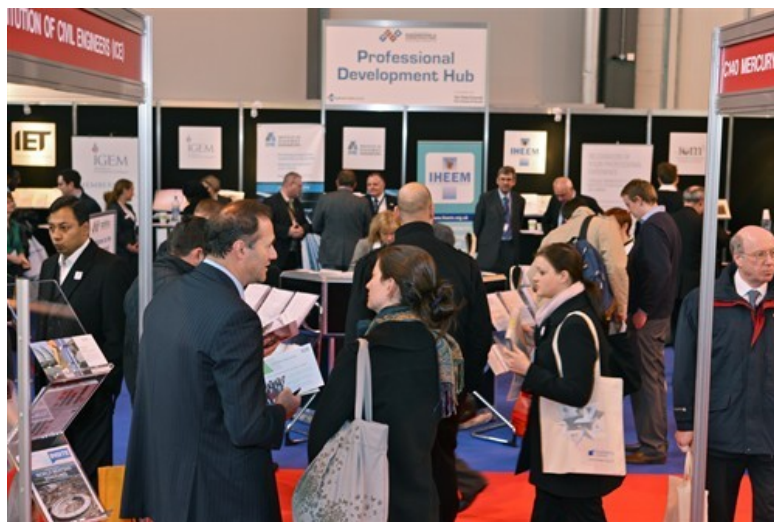
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
Energy Institute (EI)
Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE)
Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IoM3)
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE)
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)
Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM)
Institution of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management (IHEEM)
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)
Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE)
Nuclear Institute (NI)
Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)
The Chartered Institute for IT (BCS)
The Welding Institute (TWI)

Jon Prichard, Chief Executive Officer of the Engineering Council says, "We are pleased that so many of the institutions will be participating with us at this leading career opportunity forum in May. By working together on the Professional Development Hub we can help engineers to develop an understanding of the importance of professional registration, both for their own career development and for the profession as a whole. Engineering employers and their clients are increasingly asking for evidence of employee's competence, and professional membership and registration is one of the simplest ways to do this."

For further information on the exhibition, other exhibitors and activities taking part during the event, please see:

[/news-list/increased-professional-development-advice-at-recruitment-exhibition-in-may](#)

or <http://www.engineerjobs.co.uk/>



Technician Council update

Since we reported on the first meeting of the Technician Council in the September issue, there have been two more meetings of the Council. Three task groups have been established to consider issues relating to employers' needs, registration, and promotion. The Engineering Council is represented on the second and third of these, as well as the council itself.

There has been general agreement that 'Technician' is an appropriate title to use across a number of different sectors, and that the threshold for professional registration should be level 3 (as for EngTech and ICTTech), although it is recognised that in some sectors individuals may be at a higher level. There has also been agreement that competence should be the key criterion for registration, while some of the likely drivers and obstacles to registration have been considered.

For further details please visit: [/education--skills/engineering-gateways](#)

CLAIU EU Conference

Richard Shearman, Deputy CEO and Director of Formation for the Engineering Council, was among the line up of speakers at the recent CLAIU EU (Council of Association of Long Cycle Engineers of a University or Higher school of Education of the European Union) Conference "The Formation of the Engineer - international models". Hosted by Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri (CTI) and held at the University La Sapienza in Rome, the conference attracted 82 participants from 16 countries.

Presentations and debate focussed on the different approaches to the formation of the professional engineer, with Richard Shearman's paper concentrating on the competence based approach. Delegates also looked at the different methods used for the education and formation of engineering technicians and technologists and how these professionals contribute to industry and the profession.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.claiu.org/>

Call for Sustainability projects

As supporters of Climate Week (21 - 27 March) the Engineering Council has begun to further develop the section of its website devoted to providing guidance on sustainability to the engineering profession. Articles and case studies highlighting examples of sustainable engineering projects are being added to the site, with the aim of helping to guide engineers in meeting their professional obligations to consider sustainability, and ensure that it is integrated into all their engineering activity.

The sustainability web page was initially created in May 2009 when the organisation's document 'Guidance on Sustainability for the Engineering Profession' was first launched. Since then the guidance has provided an aide memoire for engineers, as well as providing a public declaration of the profession's commitment to sustainability.

Complementing the information on sustainability published by a number of PEIs, the Engineering Council's guidelines describe engineers' leadership role in sustainability and list six simple principles to guide and motivate them to achieve sustainable development through their work. Each of the interdependent principles is of equal importance, with economic and social aspects included as well as those related to the environment. They are highly relevant for all engineers and the current challenges they face, whilst also taking account of the needs of future generations.

The case studies and sustainability guidance document are available at: </sustainability>.

If you have further examples of sustainable engineering projects that would be suitable for this section of our website, please send them to Deborah Seddon on dseddon@engc.org.uk. In addition, handy wallet sized cards for engineers, listing the six principles for sustainability can be obtained from info@engc.org.uk.

IMechE embraces Climate Week

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), together with ecoConnect, kicked off Climate Week (21-27 March) with the UK launch of the Global Cleantech Cluster Association. The press launch and lunch, at which Ken Livingstone was the keynote speaker, was attended by 200 delegates, including members of the press, UK cleantech industry and investment community.

Later in the week, on Thursday 24 March the institution launched its online Population Competition: <http://www.imeche.org/knowledge/themes/environment/The-population-challenge>

Nailsea School in Somerset and Stainburn School in Workington, Cumbria both used Climate Week to take advantage of the IMechE's outreach activities for schools, by implementing its 'Our World in 2050' initiative. This is a one day off-timetable cross-curricula STEM enrichment activity focused on the topics of adaptation to climate change and sustainability. Aimed at Year 8 (12-13 year olds) it has been designed to meet Key Stage 3 of the National Curriculum. It aims to engage a more diverse range of pupils in thinking about engineering careers at a relatively early age in their educational development and thereby attract wider participation in STEM subjects.

For further details please visit: www.imeche.org

ITP members awarded ICTTech

Thirty members from the Institute of Telecommunications Professionals (ITP) recently graduated from the BT apprenticeship scheme and have gone on to achieve ICTTech registration, based on demonstrating the required skills and competencies.

The ITP in cooperation with the IET has mapped the BT apprenticeship scheme, which allows those completing the apprenticeships to qualify for Engineering Technician (EngTech) or ICT Technician (ICTTech) with the Engineering Council. These professional qualifications are available to apprentices who have completed Communications Technology Professional (CTP) NVQ level 3 or Information Communication Technology and Contact Centre (ICT + CC) NVQ and make an application to the ITP.

Mark Biffin, Apprentice Portfolio Development Manager with the BT Apprenticeship team, said: "We're delighted that these recent graduates of the BT apprentice scheme have chosen to further their career aspirations and have been awarded this professional and internationally-recognised engineering qualification."

The ITP's CEO, Brendan O'Mahony added "This is a great start and boost to their careers and will make them stand out from their peers."

BT is one of the UK's leading apprenticeship providers and has been recognised by the Learning Skills Council. The apprenticeship scheme offers a diverse range of career opportunities, with guaranteed continued employment on completion. With circa 800 apprentices currently on the scheme, BT runs 11 Frameworks across the business and engages people at levels 2, 3 and 4. Their completion rates are more than 90% in all Frameworks. In 2010/11 more than 24,000 people applied for a BT Apprenticeship. 500 new recruits will join the business as apprentices this year and plans for 2011/12 apprenticeship recruitment are over 600.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.theitp.org/Press-Room/profqual>

International engineering prize

Issued during March by HM Treasury and BIS, 'The Plan for Growth' reveals that the Government is to champion a new international prize for engineering, and is currently working with private sector partners to create an appropriate endowment to support such a prize. The report says: "The Government believes that an international prize, as prestigious as the Nobel Prize, based in the UK could help to create the excitement that would help give British manufacturing a brighter future."

The Government hopes that the creation of this prize will help to improve the desirability of engineering as a professional career again, where young people aspire to be great engineers. It sees the concept of 'engineering' as being modern and wide, including every type of science and technology applied to improving human life and sustaining the natural world.

This international prize will complement the existing £50,000 MacRobert Award. Currently the UK's biggest prize for engineering innovation, the MacRobert Award is awarded by the Royal Academy of Engineering in recognition of top-class British innovation, coupled with commercial success and benefit to society.

The Plan for Growth can be found at: treasury.gov.uk - see page 88 for mention of the engineering prize.

The Big Bang ExCeLs in 2011



Around 29,000 people flocked to the Big Bang 2011, the UK's largest single celebration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for young people, at London's ICC ExCel Centre on 10-12 March.

140 organisations took part, with the shared aim of inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers, and represented an unparalleled partnership between Government, education, industry and the wider science and engineering communities. Demonstrating the Government's support for the programme, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Vince Cable, was among a number of constituency MPs and senior civil servants to visit the fair.



Big Bang ambassador, Professor Brian Cox OBE, and National STEM Careers Coordinator, Dr Kate Bellingham, presented the National Science & Engineering awards show, with supporting acts by Sky One's Brainiac Live!

The Big Bang 2012 will take place from 15-17 March at the NEC in Birmingham. For further details please visit:

http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/viewitem.cfm?cit_id=384544

Sir John Parker nominated as next President of the Royal Academy of Engineering

The Council of the Royal Academy of Engineering has announced its decision to nominate Sir John Parker FREng, Chairman of National Grid and Anglo American plc, as the Academy's next President, to serve for a three year term from July 2011.

The Council also nominated Sir William Wakeham KB FREng, Emeritus Professor at the University of Southampton, to serve as the Academy's Senior Vice President. In this role, which also runs for a three year term, he will act as the President's deputy.

Both appointments require ratification at the Academy's annual general meeting on 11 July 2011.

For further details please see: <http://www.raeng.org.uk/news/releases/shownews.htm?NewsID=617>

TfL and Borough Partnership delivers civil engineering apprenticeships

An apprenticeship pilot has brought together five London boroughs to deliver a civil engineering apprenticeship programme in partnership with Transport for London (TfL). By the end of the scheme the apprentices will have achieved, or be close to achieving, Technician membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Many of these could qualify as Engineering Technicians shortly afterwards.

This innovative programme, managed through TfL's Borough Liaison Team and the GLA Group's Supplier Skills Team, meets employer skill needs whilst providing local residents with life-changing employment and training opportunities. With the first cohort of 10 apprentices now one year into their apprenticeship, the partners are looking to expand the programme, enabling a new cohort to begin in September 2011.

The training is facilitated by Construction Skills, with the technical certificate delivered by the College of North West London. The boroughs employ and pay for the apprentices, and TfL funds the training costs that are not covered by government funding. Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, Hillingdon, Redbridge and Hounslow each have two apprentices on the programme, and feedback has been extremely positive. Julia Fitzgerald, Business Forum Manager at London Borough of Hillingdon, says "These apprenticeship positions are a fabulous opportunity for young people to receive a solid, accredited qualification doing something they really enjoy. The two apprentices we have taken on have so much enthusiasm about working and learning. We are really pleased to be part of this and to make it work."

Representatives from 19 boroughs attended a recent event held to highlight the pilot, at which Peter Hendy, Commissioner for TfL and Catherine West, Chair of London Councils TEC each delivered key note addresses. Peter Hendy urged London boroughs to get involved; "We are committed to addressing the skills shortages in the transportation and engineering sector. Our programmes give young people a fantastic opportunity to be involved in delivering London's transport investment. More skilled staff are needed, and these apprentices are our future engineers and planners".

The event generated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm from borough officers, and TfL looks forward to continuing this partnership to create future successful delivery across London.

For more information contact Tessa Staniforth in the TfL Supplier Skills Team on 020 7126 3392.



Peter Hendy and Catherine West with the apprentices currently on the programme.

First for RAF Officer



Flt Lt David Littlemore, Officer Commanding Works Services Flight at RAF Brize Norton, has become the first serving RAF officer in recent times to successfully undertake the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) professional review process and gain Incorporated Engineer (IEng) and Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (MICE) status.

Following the disbandment of the Airfield Construction Branch of the Royal Air Force in 1966, with its role being transferred to 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields) of the Royal Engineers, the presence of professionally qualified Civil Engineers in the Royal Air Force sadly came to an end. Whilst infrastructure management responsibilities have remained through the Personnel (Support) Branch, academic qualifications or membership of a professional institution has not been a requirement to undertake the numerous posts available.

At a Presentation Ceremony in February in the Great Hall at One Great George Street, the ICE's headquarters in London, Flt Lt Littlemore was presented with his certificate by Peter Hansford the President of the ICE, along with 186 other recipients of awards.

Flt Lt Littlemore is proud of this milestone, and said: "Being the only professionally qualified civil engineer in the Royal Air Force has given me greater recognition and professional respect amongst my RAF colleagues and command chain, along with the Royal Engineers who I work closely with and the wide range of civilian contractors and agencies that I deal with on a daily basis."

David-Lloyd Roach, Membership Director of the ICE added: "It is great to see the RAF once again represented amongst the membership of ICE. Civil engineers are responsible for the infrastructure underpinning every civilised society. It is fitting, therefore, that the RAF has a professionally qualified civil engineer, in David, responsible for much of its major infrastructure work at RAF Brize Norton. We hope that this is the start of greater professional recognition within the RAF."

'Have a Go' launched to prevent a new era of "PLEBS"

Skills Minister John Hayes has given his backing to a campaign to create one million opportunities for people across the UK to learn new skills in 2011. He says "Practical skills are as important as academic qualifications. Britain's success will depend on our ability to create a new generation of world class craftsmen, designers and technicians.

"The Government's skills strategy, with more funding for apprenticeships and higher standards for training providers, will help individuals and companies gain the skills they need to succeed."

WorldSkills London 2011 is encouraging schools, colleges and businesses to organise Have a Go events that demonstrate the range of skills training opportunities that are on offer to local people.

The *Have a Go* campaign is aiming to prevent a new era of 'PLEBS' - 'People Lacking Everyday Basic Skills' - and nearly a million adults across the UK are affected, according to new research. When asked about a range of simple everyday skills, one in five British adults admitted they would be unable to complete even a third of the tasks, while one in 20 said they could perform just one of the 15 skills presented to them.

To address these skills deficiencies, WorldSkills London 2011 Have a Go will offer a million opportunities for people to improve their skills by learning from experts.

More information is available on: <http://www.worldskillslondon2011.com/homepage/get-involved/have-a-go>

Calling academics - EWB Challenge

The Engineers Without Borders Challenge (EWB Challenge) is a EWB design programme for first and second year university undergraduates. The undergraduates work in teams to develop conceptual designs for engineering projects identified by EWB 's community partners. The identified projects contribute towards the sustainable development of disadvantaged communities in developing countries whilst also educating and familiarising engineering undergraduates and academics in key 21st century issues: globalisation, climate change, sustainability and inequality - the "Global Dimension".

EWB is holding the first workshop for academics on Wednesday 20 April at Nottingham University, to introduce the EWB Challenge and discover whether you could implement it at your university. There are bursaries of up to £100 available to support your travel to the workshop (for 20 academics), it will run from about 10am to 4:30pm and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

More information is available on the website: http://www.ewb-uk.org/programmes/education/EWB_Challenge

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