

Alan Carter IEng FIPlantE FSOE

CASE STUDY

I am currently Managing Director of QA International Certification Limited, responsible for commercial and technical operations and development of Product and Management Systems Certification in world markets.

As a young engineer, I was encouraged to pursue professional qualifications by my peers, as this was the progression career path that many engineers and technicians took. I began a Craft Apprenticeship, moving quickly into manufacturing as a technician and then a specialist engineer before becoming a manager of specialist projects.

By this time I had registered with the Engineering Council as an EngTech via the IPlantE, but I realised that I had more to achieve, and so following further academic studies I successfully applied for registration as an IEng.

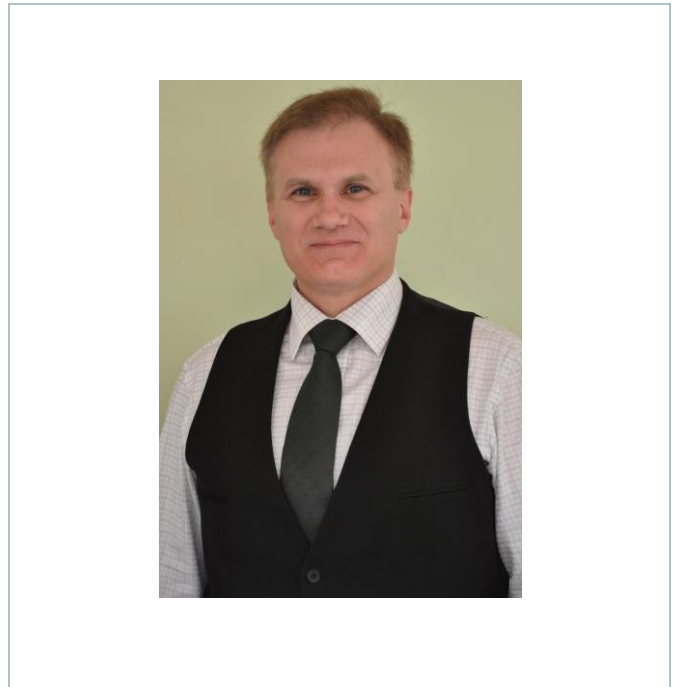
Being professionally qualified has provided the opportunity for me to work on some high level engineering projects, which includes reviewing the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment Facility, ensuring it was capable of withstanding lightning strikes. In addition, I have been a representative on panels for development of International and British Standards and was a co-founder of QAICL an Internationally Accredited Certification Body.

Professional registration as an IEng has also allowed me to work closely with professional bodies. I am a past chairman of IPlantE's North East branch, professional review interviewer for EngTech and IEng, and was nominated by the institution to sit on the Engineering Council's committee that developed the PEIs' role in awarding the professional qualifications EngTech, IEng and CEng. I considered this as my opportunity to put something back into an organisation that I was not only part of, but also considerably proud of.

What's more, as an IEng I know that I have been an inspiration to other young engineers and technicians. I strongly encourage anyone who wants a career in engineering and technology to gain professional qualifications. Professional registration is a defined, flexible pathway to help you reach your goals up to an International level, with duties as a professional engineer still enabling you to have a good work life balance.

My continued development doesn't stop here; my future goal is to be proficient in the ever developing technological advances available within my spheres of involvement in world markets.

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