

Welcome to **ePreview**, the INCOSE UK e-mail bulletin. **ePreview** covers topical news and events that are of interest to the UK Systems Engineering community, complementing our Quarterly Newsletter **Preview**.  
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## INCOSE UK NEWS

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### **Congratulations to Hillary Sillitto**

On 1 February 2010, Hillary will become one of the first people to be awarded Expert Systems Engineering Professional (ESEP) status and the INCOSE UK Council would like to congratulate him on his success.

Hillary was one of 18 participants in the ESEP pilot scheme and on behalf of INCOSE UK I would like to thank him very much for his effort and support in volunteering to be one of the ESEP pilots. I would also like to thank all his referees who took time to support the application within the challenging timescales set.

Doug Cowper  
President INCOSE UK

### **An INCOSE UK One Day Event**

The next INCOSE UK One Day Event is taking place on 3 March 2010 in Bristol. The event is titled "Simple Systems Techniques That Work"



With this event we will be challenging delegates to use simple systems techniques to address the problem of how to save the earth from meteor attack. We expect this problem to provide plenty of scope for looking at different systems aspects across the range of possible solution options.

Delegates will be put into groups and rotate around four bases, with some bases covering one technique and some covering two:

- Base 1: Quality Function Deployment (QFD)
- Base 2: Stakeholder Identification + Balancing conflicting requirements
- Base 3: N-Squared Charts
- Base 4: Six Honest Men + How to define a systems project

This unique event will provide delegates with an unparalleled opportunity to try out a range of simple systems techniques which they can apply back in their places of work without the need for specialist tools or IT systems. If you would like to give some new techniques a try, or reacquaint yourself with some that you haven't used for a while then this event is for you!

More details will be released shortly and registration will open in February.

### **MBDA Join UKAB**

Memoranda of Understanding have recently been signed, making MBDA the latest member to join the UKAB.

### **Website**

A growing number of members are contacting the INCOSE UK Secretariat asking for information about Systems Engineering Training. As a result we have created a [Training Section](#) on the website, which we hope to expand as more information becomes available.

As well as information on INCOSE's CSEP programme there is also a Training Providers section. It **should be noted that** the Society is not endorsing the companies that are listed in this section, we are just providing members with information.

## From the Corner

A new year – a new hope. A new decade – a new chapter. I hope both will be better for all of us than the previous ones.

Before looking forward, it is always wise to look back to see where we have come from and what direction we are heading in now.

I am no historian, but I do find it intriguing that for at least the last 120 years, each decade is characterised by its own 'title' for the prevalent ethos:

- 1890s – Naughty Nineties
- 1900s – Edwardian Era
- 1910s – The Great War
- 1920s – Roaring Twenties
- 1930s – The Great Depression
- 1940s – Second World War
- 1950s – Rebuilding Decade
- 1960s – Swinging Sixties
- 1970s – Disruptive Decade
- 1980s – The Thatcher Years
- 1990s – Peace Dividend Decade
- 2000s – The Awful Naughties

In reality each decade has its 'progress', its entertainment, its financial problems and spend blitzes, its war, its art and much more. Let's take the swinging sixties as an instance. It is a nice jovial title representing a the birth of the disco culture, the flower power people, the mini (both car and skirt-length), general improvement in living standards, the man on the moon, Concorde, single-handed round the world yachtmanship, the mass-marketing of cheese and onion flavoured crisps (which cost a penny more than plain flavoured crisps to start with), Dr Who, Star Trek, 007 and so on. Underlying this surface of veneer was the continuing Cold War, the assassinations of John F Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the seven day war in the Middle East, apartheid in South Africa, the black rights movement in the USA, the continuing fight for full equal rights for women, the need to have your passport annotated with the amount of foreign currency you had bought and were taking abroad with you and so on.

We have synthesised, summarised and therefore simplified our understanding. Why? I would suggest we cannot cope with the large amount of detail and information that goes with each decade.

But is the summary enough of a guide to us to rely on? I suspect the answer depends on what you personally have experienced or studied, what you understand by the summary and what you want to use that summary for. Take for example the awful naughties. Awful has two meanings: dreadful or wonderful. Which did you pick and why?

The same problems can exist when we summarise engineering components. Most of us would associate 'turbo' with car engines, others with aircraft engines. Very few would associate it old-fashioned railway steam locomotives. Yet they did exist for a very short time before diesel engines took over from the 'puff-puffs'... go to the railway museum in Grängesberg in Sweden if you do not believe me.

This brings me round nicely to Tornado, the newly built A1 Pacific steam locomotive. Did anyone notice that on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 it defied arctic weather conditions and hauled only two of only a handful of trains operating in Kent? On the second trip it had to rescue around 100 commuters who had been left stranded by the more 'modern' trains. So the naughties decade ended with an instance of 'old' technology doing much better than 'new' technology. The questions I leave you to consider at the start of a new decade is:



- Do we know which old technologies can out-perform their modern equivalents and under what circumstances?
- Is there a central data-base or library where we can find out about such useful old technologies?
- Is there enough data in those data-bases or library to be able to build those old technologies from scratch?
- If not, should one of INCOSE's functions be a librarian to such useful old technologies?

*O. B. Server*

## **ADVERTISEMENT - Appointment**

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### **Cranfield Defence and Security**



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UNIVERSITY

Department of Engineering Systems and Management  
Centre for Systems Engineering

### **Lecturer**

**£38,011 - £42,369 per annum**

Post available for a Lecturer in Systems Engineering at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, to support the development and delivery of process guidance and course material on the practice of Systems Engineering in Defence Acquisition.

Further details can be found at: <http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/hr/jobopportunities/vacancies/page45610.jsp>

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 26 February 2010.**

## EVENTS DIARY

### Future Events

| Date/Time                                   | Organisation & Location  | Description   |
|---|--|---|
| 27/01/2010<br><br>18:00 start               | <b>Bristol Local Group</b><br><br>Room 3D06 on the University of the West of England (UWE), Frenchay Campus, Bristol | <b>Systems Engineering in Different Domains</b><br><br>Does the manner in which systems engineering is carried out depend entirely upon the context in which it is done, or are there some universal principles which will always apply? This interactive workshop event will seek to tease out what the differences are in the practice of systems engineering across different domains, assess why they have come about, and see whether anything can be learned from the transfer of knowledge.  |
| 02/02/2010<br><br>17:00 for<br>17:30        | <b>Railway Interest Group</b><br><br>The Duke of York, 47 Rathbone Street, London W1T1NQ                             | <b>How not to do Systems Engineering</b><br><br>Until now, Rail Interest Group events have been designed to serve positive systems engineers who are working hard to make their project a success. We are now pleased to provide an event for the community of project saboteurs. In the informal environment of the function room at the Duke of York pub in Fitzrovia, a number of experienced systems engineers will describe their favoured systems-related method of bringing a project to its knees. There will then be an opportunity for members to describe their own preferred methods and a discussion on which is most effective. The event will finish at 18:30 but informal discussions may continue over a drink or two. |
| 07/02/2010 -<br>10/02/2010<br><br>Full Days | <b>INCOSE International</b><br><br>Phoenix, AZ USA   | <b>2010 International Workshop</b><br><br>INCOSE 2010 International Workshop.   |
| 16/02/2010                                  | <b>Railway Interest Group</b><br><br>Arup, Fitzroy Street, London  | <b>"Systems Engineering and the UK Transport System"</b>  |
| 25/02/2010<br><br>Full Day                  | <b>INCOSE Associates</b><br><br>MoD Boscombe Down, Salisbury SP4 0JF   | <b>Royal Aeronautical Society's Weapon System Integrity vs Interoperability Conference</b><br><br>There is a common perception that a conflict exists between weapon system integrity and interoperability. Is this true or are there opportunities for ensuring that surety and risks can be balanced to achieve interoperability? Areas where this is a major issue include ISTAR, Directed Energy Weapons, and Space-based Systems. In order to address this question, a one -day unclassified conference is being organised by the Royal Aeronautical Society's Weapon Systems and Technology Group in conjunction with QinetiQ.  |

For more details visit the events page at [www.incoseonline.org.uk](http://www.incoseonline.org.uk)

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