

A MESSAGE FROM
THE TRUSTEES
TAKE TIME
TO REFLECT



THIS IS A TIME TO REFLECT ON TWO ISSUES:

1. Changing our name to match the changed and changing nature of the IEE and help us face up to the challenges inherent in our vision of engineering in the 21st century.
2. Joining forces with a like-minded institution, the IIE, to accelerate the achievement of our goals for the future.

A NEW NAME FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Over the last century the interests of the IEE have expanded enormously as a consequence of the vast range of new technologies generated by the advancement of electrical science and engineering.

Our vision of an ever increasing degree of interdisciplinary working in engineering and technology means that the pattern of the 20th century will be repeated at an even greater pace in the 21st. It inevitably means that engineering will engage many people who do not regard themselves as engineers, let alone electrical engineers. This is true of a substantial fraction of our existing membership - a fraction that will increase in the future.

This lies behind our commitment to inclusiveness.

At the end of the 19th century our forebears in the Society of Telegraph Engineers took the bold step of renaming the society the Institution of Electrical Engineers. It was a clear statement by members to potential

members, government and other stakeholders as to the increased breadth of the Institution's interests and expertise.

It is time to clarify our purpose similarly today. For many people working in the technologies we cover, our name is now a problem. They ask: "Why should I join the Institution of Electrical Engineers when I am not an Electrical Engineer?". Equally, decision makers fail to recognise the breadth of either the IEE's membership (several tens of thousands in ICT) or our interests. Many advances in 'medical science' have, in fact, been the result of work by engineers and technologists working in fields covered by the IEE.

The IEE Trustees believe that the time is now appropriate to match the boldness of our 19th century predecessors and more so because of our proposed merger with the IIE.

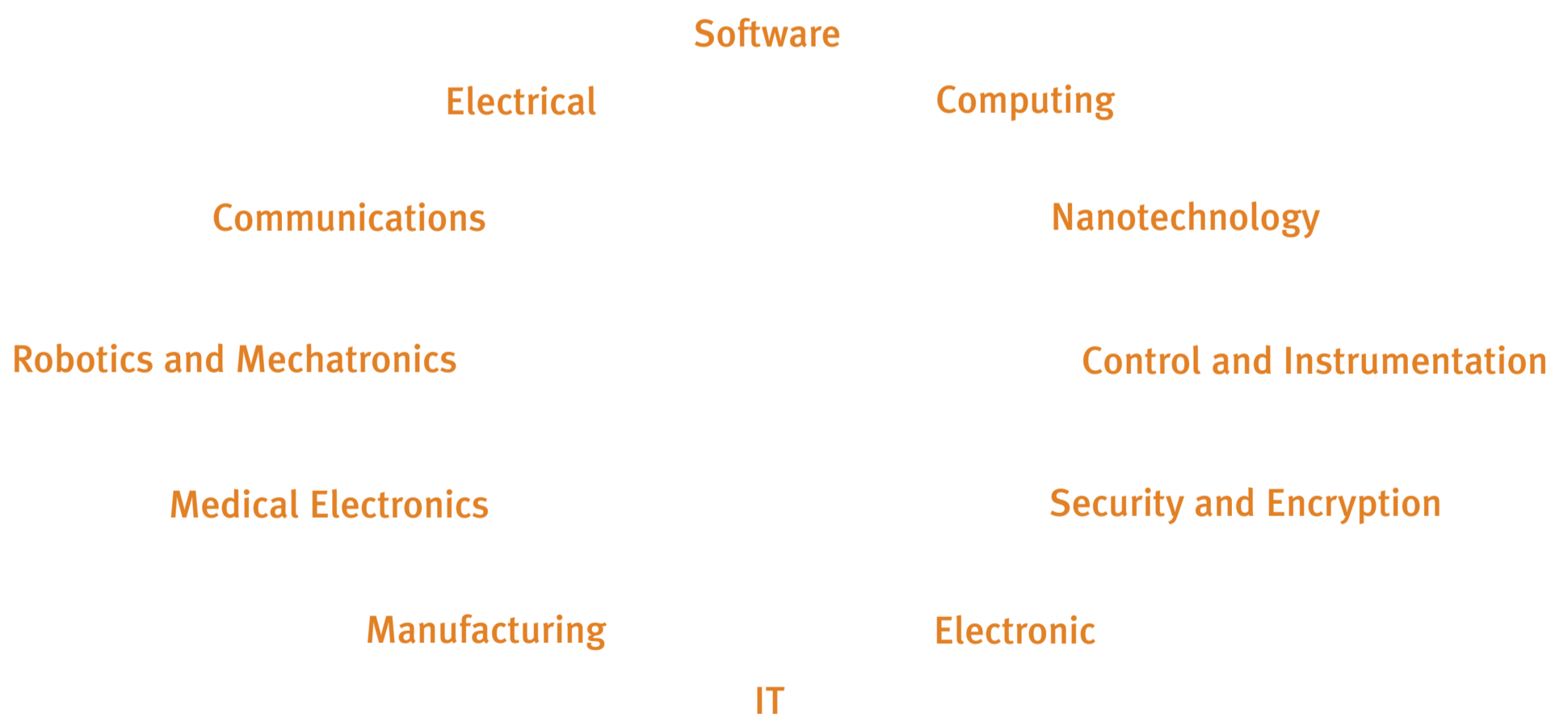
Whilst it is time to find a name for the future, this has proven a difficult task. After much soul searching the name proposed is the **Institution of Engineering and Technology**.

Some may think this title is too broad. The Trustees acknowledge that this could be an issue. However, this title has great merit. It does acknowledge the broad spread of current IEE interests.

Getting together with the IIE would, of course, make this even richer by including relevant aspects of mechanical and structural engineering.

For these reasons we have converged on a generic title, which also has the advantage of accommodating the inevitable further expansion of our interests.

Most importantly, by referring to engineering and technology rather than engineers, it advertises our commitment to inclusiveness in our knowledge services activities.



To name but a dozen or so!

A NEW KIND OF INSTITUTION AND JOINING WITH THE IIE

Over the past 5 years the IEE Trustees, supported by the Council, have evolved a vision of engineering and technology in the 21st century (increasingly interdisciplinary, global and inclusive), and have committed to the creation of a new kind of Institution to address that vision.

The discussions with the IMechE and the IIE on merging were consistent with our strategy. Whilst it was not essential to success, we did believe that getting together with them would allow us to accelerate progress towards our objectives. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reach agreement with the Mechanicals on the way forward. However, we found that the IIE's vision of the future very much matched our own and therefore the Trustees of both Institutions believe we should work together to create this new kind of Institution, fit for purpose in the 21st century.

WHAT WILL THE BENEFITS BE?

The new Institution will be more reflective of the engineering enterprise as a whole, than either alone. The IEE is made up predominantly of Chartered Engineers and technologists, the IIE of Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Technicians. Hence the new Institution will immediately make a powerful contribution to achieving the IEE's commitment to inclusiveness.

The combined Institutions will be much stronger in manufacturing, operations and maintenance than the IEE alone.

It will readily foster interdisciplinary co-operation by combining the broad interests of the IEE with those of the IIE.

It will have the ability to speak on behalf of a larger combined membership on a broader range of topics, increasing influence with governments and other stakeholders.

There will be a small but useful further increase in the non-UK membership.

AND WHAT WILL BE LOST?

The Trustees believe that members will lose nothing through the new Institution; it will build on the services currently provided by the IEE and the IIE and speed us along the route we are already pursuing. Publications, events, libraries and information will all be enhanced. Specialist interests will be served through tailored publications, events and communities, while networking within the broader engineering and technology profession will be enhanced.

We will, of course, preserve the IEE 'brand' where it is sensible to do so and members may retain their existing post nominals if they so wish.

CREATING A BODY OF INFLUENCE

We live in a world that totally depends on sophisticated engineering and technology, yet it can be argued that public understanding of those subjects has never been less. The central role played by our technologies and our members in the well-being of society needs to be recognised and we need to influence future policy decisions positively. The Trustees, based on discussions with government ministers, officials and business leaders around the world, believe that this new kind of Institution, combining the strengths of the IEE and IIE, has a greater prospect of success.

ACHIEVING OUR MISSION

The Trustees therefore believe:

The changed and changing nature of engineering and our drive to create a new kind of Institution means that the bold step of adopting a new name is now appropriate.

That merging with the IIE will be a positive step towards the more rapid creation of that new kind of Institution.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Over the next few weeks we will be communicating with all members of the two institutions and we will be making information available. A website has been created, www.newinst.org, which contains further information. The website will be updated and you can make your views heard through it.

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