



The Society of Engineers to integrate with IIE

The Society of Engineers, one of the United Kingdom's oldest and most distinguished professional engineering bodies, is to integrate with IIE. This has resulted from an overwhelmingly favourable vote of the Society's members at a recent meeting in London.

Established in May 1854 in The Strand, London, The Society of Engineers is the third oldest professional engineering body in the UK promoting the interests of members worldwide in all branches of engineering. It was founded as a means of reunion for former students of Putney College - one of few institutions giving technical and scientific training for engineers at that time.

The Society has had many eminent engineers among its membership and in receipt of its prestigious awards - the most recent being the Churchill Medal 2004 awarded in The Society's 150th year to Neil Jenkins, FSE, for the development of High Speed Amphibian (HSA) technology

resulting in the Aquada sports amphibian car (the subject of the IIE Prestige Lecture on 7 March).

In 1946 Sir Winston Churchill became an Honorary Fellow and approved the use of his name for The Society's senior award. Recipients have included Sir Frank Whittle for jet engine design, Sir Christopher Hinton and Sir John Cockroft for their work on atomic energy, Sir Geoffrey de Havilland for aircraft design, Sir Bernard Lovell for radio astronomy and Professor Alan Wells for the Wells Turbine for wave power.

In its 150th year, The Society recognised it could not trade on heritage - the days of Marconi, the father of wireless, (an Honorary Fellow) are long gone. Until recently The Society has been influential and active, but diminishing membership numbers meant limited long term viability.

Securing integration with IIE is viewed by The Society as an ideal outcome ensuring continued recognition of The Society of Engineers name as its members will

retain their post nominal letters, also securing a broader membership base for IIE. This is a significant milestone following The Society of Engineers 150th year in 2004, showing acceptance of change, realism and pragmatism - invaluable attributes for engineers and engineering.

The President of The Society of Engineers, Iain Wright, said: 'Our members are now looking forward to enjoying the comprehensive services offered by the IIE and being part of a forward looking professional organisation'.

The President of IIE, Lord Trefgarne, in welcoming the integration said: 'As the UK's largest multidisciplinary professional engineering institution, IIE is delighted to welcome the members of such a longstanding and distinguished professional body to share in the opportunities made possible by our organisation.'

'We hope that The Society's members will wish actively to participate in the affairs of IIE.'

IIE and IEE gain DTI support for new institution title

The IIE and IEE have received a significant boost to their joint aspirations to create a new professional engineering body that is interdisciplinary, inclusive of all types of engineering professional and global in scope. The Department of Trade and Industry has indicated its willingness to support the two institutions in an application to the Privy Council for a new broad title, The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

The memberships of the two existing institutions would now need to be balloted and a favourable vote would be required before the Privy Council could be petitioned formally. Sufficient notice of such member ballots, with related Extraordinary General Meetings for each institution, would need to be given. It is therefore expected that voting would take place in July at the earliest, or possibly during September of this year. If the voting is sufficiently favourable within

both current institutions, the Privy Council would be requested to create a new Royal Charter for the Institution of Engineering and Technology. That being granted, the IIE and IEE would work towards the formation of the new institution, beginning towards the end of this year or early in 2006.

We shall keep members informed of progress. A prospectus for IET will be mailed, along with voting papers in due course.