

Council outlines plans for new UK board

Reveals draft charter; clarifies terms for key officers

ICHEMÉ'S Council, at its most recent meeting on 15 January, agreed the draft charter for a proposed UK board.

This step was prompted by the increasingly global spread of IChemE's members, with the share of non-UK members standing at 45% and rising. This prompts the question why IChemE operates regional level boards in all its other main membership hubs, such as Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand, but not in the UK. The creation of a distinct UK board will allow IChemE's members to better adapt global policy and strategy to UK issues.

The board will be formally established at the forthcoming AGM in May with incoming president Judith Hackitt as chair. It will comprise six existing Council members based in the UK, two volunteers to be elected by IChemE's UK membership, and two co-opted members chosen to best reflect the range of membership and key challenges in the UK.

Its purpose includes helping develop and implement

Chemical Engineering Matters

Chemical Engineering Matters, the update to the 2007 Roadmap, will be implemented this year. Local boards will pick priorities based on local challenges, with special interest groups leading the efforts to implement work in their specific areas.



IChemE's business plans affecting the UK, contributing to the vision and strategy of IChemE, close collaboration with the UK member groups and individual members, maintaining strong links with UK employers of chemical engineers, and leading and supporting interaction on IChemE policy with government, industry and other relevant parties.

The work on the UK board to date has been led by Bill Harper, who will explain more of the details in the March issue of *tce*.

terms of office

Council has clarified the length of term served by the key officers

(such as chair, treasurer, secretary) in IChemE special interest groups, member groups and other committees. Going forward, the key officers will hold office for a term of three to four years; longer terms can only be considered for roles requiring substantial experience or highly-specialised knowledge. Terms can normally be renewed once if there is no suitable successor, with further renewals requiring the approval of Council.

diversity

IChemE has received a grant to work on a pilot project for the Royal Academy of Engineering to address diversity in higher levels of membership. The work is initially being carried out across the UK membership, with plans to roll it out across the global membership later. At this stage the project addresses only gender diversity, due to a lack of sufficient data on ethnicity.

A working group comprising members and staff has set a target of encouraging at least 100 applications for Chartered membership from women by September, and 15 for Fellowship. To date, IChemE has never recruited more than nine female Fellows a year in the UK, and the 79 female FIChemEs in the country are outnumbered by over 2,000 men.

SIG webinars info rounded up

A NEW page has been set up on IChemE's website, listing forthcoming special interest group webinars in one place.

Webinars are free of charge and open to all.

Visit www.icheme.org/specialinterestgroups/webinars to find out what's coming up.

IChemE Salary Survey reminder

The 2012 IChemE Salary and Member Satisfaction Survey is live until Friday 17 February. All eligible members should have received survey details via email. If you have not received the survey link and want to take part, contact IChemE communications manager Matt Stalker (mstalker@icheme.org).

Asia-Pacific viewpoints needed

ALL IChemE members based in the Asia-Pacific region are invited to complete a survey to provide feedback on future priorities within the region.

The results will be used to tailor a technical meeting/webinar for Asia-Pacific IChemE members, to address the most pressing issues. The webinar is scheduled for July 2013; more details will be released nearer the time.

Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZMV5W8Z to take the survey.

New course catalogue released

ICHEMÉ'S 2013 course catalogue is now available, offering a programme of quality-assured courses on topics ranging from safety, project management, and communication skills. The catalogue is available at <http://bit.ly/WWMgBd> or email courses@icheme.org for a hard copy.



Forms of Contract revised

Gordon Bateman reviews the key changes in the much-anticipated new editions of IChemE's UK Forms of Contract

The results of several years' work by IChemE's contracts committee will be unveiled on 5 February at the launch of a complete suite of new editions of the UK Forms of Contract for Process Plants. As a result, IChemE will reveal the latest in best-practice contracting for the process sectors.

The new editions (see box) have been fully reviewed and revised to give ever greater precision and clarity. In particular, the insurance provisions and the performance test provisions have been significantly amended. Identical text is now used throughout all five forms wherever possible and appropriate.

Drawing on and maintaining the essential philosophy and structure of the previous UK editions of the five forms (published between 2001 and 2004) and the four international

forms of 2007, the updates take account of improvements in best practice and changes in legislation, and also introduce some innovations not seen in other standard forms. These include:

- rewritten insurance provisions, with clear contractual procedures if claims are made under the construction all risks (CAR) insurance, particularly in respect of future payments to the contractor for carrying out the remedial work necessitated by the events leading to the claim; and
- rewritten provisions for the performance test regime, providing greater clarity for the management of these important tests which establish whether or not the plant performance guarantees have been met. The detail of these provisions are a key differentiator from other standard forms for engineering

contracts published in the UK. Other changes include:

- a formal notice procedure introduced for important communications at a very senior level directly between the parties;
- clause 2 (co-operation) is included in all five forms rather than just in the Burgundy (target cost) form;
- mutual indemnity provisions with respect to patents and other IPRs are fully balanced;
- third-party rights provisions – especially in the two subcontract forms where third-party rights are relevant both up and down the contractual chain;
- extension of time provisions are enhanced;
- claims provisions are set out in all five forms;
- liability for pollution clean-up costs clearly stated, while leaving the matter of who undertakes the clean-up to be addressed at the time of the incident;
- payment and adjudication procedures updated

in accordance with the amendments to the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009;

- provision for payment in more than one currency;
- all main contract forms now require the purchaser to make payment following issue of the project manager's payment certificate without the contractor having to issue an invoice;
- improved termination procedures, particularly requiring the issue of takeover and final certificates where the termination is for the purchaser's convenience;
- limitations of liabilities provisions improved, with a number of legal issues addressed; and
- which disputes may be referred to expert determination by request of one party.

The guide notes have also been subjected to detailed scrutiny and revision and, for the first time, now include flowcharts which set out the underlying logic and procedures contained within clause 35 (performance tests) in all forms except *The Brown Book* – for which performance tests are inapplicable.

There has been a tremendous amount of work by the committee in preparing these new editions, a process which has taken several years. Major improvements have been made, and I commend these new forms to the process industries as representing best practice in contracting for the design, construction and testing of process plants. They build upon a long tradition of successful and highly-regarded forms of contract for the process industries and other users.



The revised suite

- The Red Book for lump sum contracts* – 5th edition
- The Green Book for cost reimbursable contracts* – 4th edition
- The Burgundy Book for target cost contracts* – 2nd edition
- The Yellow Book for process, mechanical and electrical engineering subcontracts* – 4th edition
- The Brown Book for civil engineering subcontracts* – 3rd edition

Email htreanor@icHEME.org to request any further information or to purchase one of our new editions. Alternatively, visit www.icHEME.org/shop

Gordon Bateman is chair of IChemE's contracts committee

Queensland registration attracts international interest

Take note: RPEQ is not just for Australians, says **Peter Slane**

AUSTRALIA'S most northern state, Queensland – colloquially known as the 'sunshine state' – has raised the bar on engineering standards and set a precedent which the rest of Australia is likely to follow in the next few years.

As of July 2008, the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland (BPEQ) made it a requirement that any person who provides a professional engineering service in Queensland, or who designs a building, plant, machinery or product destined for the state, must formally register as a professional engineer of Queensland (RPEQ). There are over 8,900 engineers currently registered with BPEQ, of which over 380 are chemical engineers.

Introduced by the Queensland government to put a stop to inexperienced engineers or non-qualified people performing engineering work, RPEQ registration is designed to protect the public and raise the standard of services provided by engineers.

RPEQ ensures that engineering services are provided by a registered professional engineer in a skilled and competent manner. One engineer has

already faced prosecution for carrying out work while not being registered, while others have seen their RPEQ registration suspended or cancelled, for breaches of code of practice.

Internationally and locally, this means that engineers who

are working on projects destined for Queensland, but who may not necessarily step foot in the state – for example, engineers in Europe or Asia might design or manufacture equipment that is intended for Queensland – also have to become registered. The exception to this is for individuals who practise under the direct supervision of an RPEQ-registered engineer in the same field of engineering.

Up until recently, chemical engineers have had to apply through other RPEQ assessment bodies to become registered,

but following a successful application to BPEQ, IChemE is now authorised as an assessing entity. Since October last year, IChemE's Australian office has already processed over 100 registrations and has been inundated with enquiries. As more chemical engineers

become aware of this registration requirement, there is a realisation that this further demonstrates to potential employers that their qualifications meet international standards.

Strong international interest is starting to gather momentum, with some registrations already approved for chemical engineers based in Singapore and the UK. Some of these are ex-pats or chemical engineers planning to relocate to Australia in the near future, but we expect we will see an increase from those who are working on projects destined for Queensland.

IChemE Chartered Chemical Engineers registering through IChemE have the added advantage of their application being fast tracked, as they already meet the qualification and competency standards through their Chartered and Fellow status to meet the RPEQ requirements.

For other IChemE members and non-members who meet our assessment criteria, but who are not Chartered Engineers, the benefit for RPEQ status is two-fold, in that upon RPEQ registration, the applicant will also be awarded IChemE Chartered status. If the candidate

is a non-member, they will automatically be awarded this status should they choose to sign up as a member.

In order to maintain registration, all RPEQ registrants are required to carry out a minimum of 50 hours of continuous professional development over one year – or 150 hours over three years. IChemE members will be able to benefit from using IChemE's web tool to track their CPD and use that to demonstrate their compliance for continued registration with BPEQ.

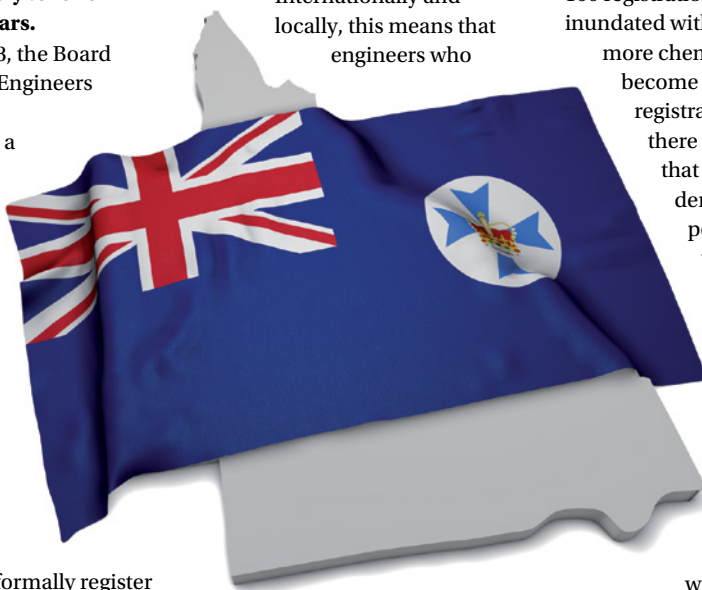
To date, we've been encouraged by the positive comments received from those who have been assessed through IChemE, with feedback indicating that our process is clear, easy and streamlined and that we are efficient in responding. We were also praised for offering the service free of charge to existing Chartered and Fellow Members.

While Australia, in general, does have a national register for engineers, the scheme is largely voluntary and does not stop an unqualified person from operating deceitfully as an engineer. However, through Queensland's Professional Engineers Act, the BPEQ is empowered to ensure that engineering services are carried out only by professional engineers.

Following Queensland's lead, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) could be the next Australian state to set up a register, and is expected to do this before June 2014.

Peter Slane (pslane@icheme.org) is director, Australasia at IChemE

RPEQ registration enquires to Natalie Angelone: nangelone@icheme.org



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