Purpose

The Pioneer Award is intended to recognize one distinguished individual or team, who by their achievements in the engineering of systems, has contributed uniquely to major products or outcomes enhancing society or meeting its needs.

Eligibility

Individuals or teams who have contributed toward outstanding pioneer-applications of Systems Engineering in the development of successful products or services of benefit to society may qualify for this award. Some examples would include, but not be limited to; applying systems engineering principles to unique, highly complex problems; the successful application of systems engineering to brand new market segments and outstanding examples of advancing the state of the art and/or practice of systems engineering beyond its current bounds.

The criteria may apply to a single outstanding outcome or a lifetime of significant achievements in effecting successful systems.

Nomination

Any INCOSE member in good standing may initiate a Pioneer Award nomination but they may only nominate or provide a letter of support for one (1) individual or team for Pioneer per year. The nominator shall prepare a nomination letter describing the nominator’s qualifications for making the nomination and the contributions made by the nominee that qualify them for consideration for this award. The nomination letter must be accompanied by a minimum of three (3) detailed letters of support. Of the three letters of support, at least two (2) shall be from INCOSE members in good standing. Each letter of support must be from an individual other than the nominator and shall state the supporter’s qualifications for supporting the nomination and why they believe the nominee is qualified for consideration for this award.

The nominator shall assemble the nomination letter and the letters of support into a nomination package and submit the nomination package to the Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee not later than 28 February for consideration. Nomination packages received after that date will not be considered.

Selection

The Honors and Awards Committee (see CMT-100) shall evaluate the Pioneer Award nomination packages and make a rank-ordered recommendation to the Board of Directors of a maximum of three candidates for the award. The Board of Directors shall approve the award recipient at the Second Calendar Quarter Board of Directors meeting by voted resolution.
Once the Board of Directors’ approval decision is made, the Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee shall prepare the citation for the Award and provide the citation to the INCOSE Secretary within two (2) weeks following the Board of Directors’ decision.

**Presentation**

The Pioneer Award is limited to a maximum of one (1) per year to a team or living individual. An additional award for that year may be made posthumously. When the award is made posthumously there shall be no limitation in the time period elapsed between the individual’s death and the award. However, the achievements that are being recognized should still be relevant to current systems engineering.

The approval and notification process shall ensure confidentiality pending final notification as follows: The Chair of the Honors & Awards Committee will notify nominators of those who did not receive an award. Award nominators and recipients shall be notified within one month after the 2 Q BOD meeting. Citations will be provided by the Chair of the Honors & Awards Committee to INCOSE Admin concurrently, in order to support preparation of plaques.

This award will be announced at the annual International Symposium. INCOSE will prepare a press release to coincide with the ceremonial presentation of the Pioneer Award. The recipient will be asked to keep the information confidential until presentation.

Recipients of the Pioneer Award shall be granted for their personal use, free registration for life to both the annual International Symposium and the International Workshop. The recipient shall also receive one (1) additional complimentary dinner ticket for the banquet at the annual International Symposium on the year of their Award. In the case of a posthumous award, the person accepting the award shall receive the complimentary IS registration and dinner. All recipients of the Pioneer Award shall receive lifetime INCOSE individual membership free of charge.

SUPERSEDES: REC-106 dated May 1, 2012

APPROVED BY: INCOSE Board of Directors, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, June 27, 2013

MAINTAINED BY: President-Elect