



International Council on Systems Engineering
New England Chapter Meeting

Evolution of the CSEP Program and Current Status

Speaker: Dr. Kevin Forsberg, Chair of the INCOSE Certification Advisory Group and CEO, The Center for Systems Management

Date: Wednesday, September 10th, 2008

Time: 6:00-6:20pm Social / Refreshments
6:20-6:40pm Chapter Meeting / Networking
6:40-8:00pm Featured Presentation

Location: MITRE – M Building (Room 1M306 in main lobby)
202 Burlington Road, Bedford, MA. 01730-1420

Reservations:

For planning purposes, please RSVP at info@incose-ne.org

For further information about the International Council on Systems Engineering, please see the INCOSE Chapter website at <http://www.incose-ne.org/>

Cost: \$10 for members, Free for students and first time attendees

About the Presenter



Dr. Forsberg has 51 years of experience in Systems Engineering, Program, and Proposal Management, and consulting to business and government. Dr. Forsberg co-authored two books on Project Management and has developed and delivered many project management and systems engineering courses. His experience spans research, development, and production implementation. Dr. Forsberg is the recipient of distinguished achievement awards, including the CIA Agency Seal Medallion, the INCOSE Pioneer award, and the NASA Public Service Medal. He is co-founder of a nationally recognized university Certificate in Project Management Program. In addition, he has published over 40 journal articles and presented papers at PMI Symposiums, INCOSE, ProjectWorld, and AIAA. He is an INCOSE fellow and a life-time ASME fellow.

Abstract

The desire for a Systems Engineering Certification Program was tested within INCOSE through a survey of all members, conducted by Robert Turk in 2001. The strong positive response led to the formation of a Certification Working Group in 2002, the establishment of the objectives for certification and its evolution, and the development of a certification exam in 2003. Achieving the fundamental Certified Systems Engineering Professional (CSEP) level requires passing the 2-hour exam, plus verifiable college technical degree (B.S. or equivalent), plus five years of experience in Systems Engineering. The first CSEP certificates were awarded in June 2004.

The vision of 2002 was that there would be several levels of certification and that there would be specialty areas as well. This would allow for professional growth in the SE profession. In 2007 the Certification Advisory Group (which replaced the Certification Working Group in 2004) authorized two new levels of certification, effective 1 July 2008. The entry level requires the candidate only to pass an exam based on the INCOSE SE Handbook version 3.1, and this level is designated Associate Systems Engineering Professional (ASEP). The second level is the fundamental level, which is the original CSEP (five years of SE experience minimum). The fundamental level has been expanded with a specialty focus of DoD Acquisition (CSEP-Acquisition), and for those interested this requires a one-hour exam in addition to the basic CSEP. The new exam is available as of 1 July 2008. The third level, Expert Systems Engineering Professional (ESEP), which will require 20 years of SE experience, is in the final planning stage.

In addition to individual applications, several organizations have signed agreements with INCOSE to facilitate the identification and reviewing of individual applications, with the goal of increasing the number of individual CSEPs within the organization. One examples of this is European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS), which announced the agreement with INCOSE at the International Symposium in Utrecht in the Netherlands in June 2008. EADS, which has divisions in France, Germany, England, and Spain, exemplifies the growing international interest in the INCOSE SE Certification Program.

Dr. Forsberg has been continuously involved with the certification effort since its formalization in 2002. He was co-chair of the Certification Working Group, and is currently chair of the Certification Advisory Group. He was also involved as co-chair of the SE Handbook Working Group. He was co-editor of the SE Handbook versions 2a, 3.0, and the current version 3.1.