

## **Message from the President, No. 5 – IS 2020 Virtual Event Details**

To all INCOSE members and contributors to our International Symposium (IS) 2020 I would like to take the time to explain some of the rationale behind our decision making for transitioning our premier Systems Engineering event to a three (3) day / 3 track virtual symposium. As you are aware, we announced the INCOSE IS 2020 will be fully virtual just a few days ago. You can find this information under [the “Message from the President No. 4 - COVID-19 Update - the INCOSE IS 2020.”](#)

Further details will be forthcoming over the coming weeks on the symposium website at <https://www.incose.org/symp2020>, and via social media and other communication means.

However, I would like to provide you with some information on key topics. If you have any general questions relating to this message, please do not hesitate to contact us at [symposium@incose.org](mailto:symposium@incose.org).

### **Virtual Event**

To reiterate, the health and safety of our members, contractors, and alliances remain our highest priority. We also recognise the INCOSE IS is a great experience for all participants and we wished to continue to provide this, albeit in another form. To delay or cancel would not be ideal and we have been working hard to ensure this would not occur. By moving to a virtual environment, we will be able to try new things with the IS program, while maintaining the excellent knowledge exchange and social networking that makes the IS the premier Systems Engineering event worldwide.

The advantages of a virtual event to name a few, include –

- Enjoying the sessions from the safety and comfort of your own home – you also have a front row seat!
- Discussing the presentation with your colleagues without disturbing the presenter or others using “chat rooms.”
- Presenters using collaboration tools to conduct small team exercises in their presentations.
- Session chairs moderating the chats to accumulate questions for the presenter.
- A greater pool of potential presenters, speakers, and panelists from around the world who may not be able to travel or have schedule limitations.

It has been our plan for a few years now to offer other means to access and participate in our major events for those who cannot physically attend, including both the International Workshop (IW) and the IS. The COVID-19 pandemic is a catalyst to move towards virtualisation at a much unanticipated accelerated rate. We are taking this time to turn a challenging situation into a learning and growth opportunity. Once IS 2020 is concluded we will look to see what worked and what may need to be modified going forward. We intend to continue to offer virtual participation and online collaboration at IW and IS events. We hope a hybrid arrangement of a physical event with remote participation opportunities will serve all our members going forward. We may need to adjust as we go, but there is “no turning back”.

### **Virtual 3 Day /3 Track Technical Program**

You will note the IS 2020 event is a 3 day / 3 track offering – a smaller sized event than the typical physical symposium. We have chosen to do this for our first fully virtual international event in order to focus our efforts to bring a high-quality offering while we all adjust to this new delivery format. The decision to do this was not taken lightly as we are very aware of the commitment of authors, presenters, and panellists to submit high quality material. The down selection has been a difficult task, meticulously undertaken by the same technical program team responsible for the initial review and selection of content for the INCOSE IS 2020, following the fair practices always employed.

For authors and presenters whose papers have been accepted but unfortunately may not have the opportunity to deliver a virtual session, your paper will still be part of the INCOSE IS 2020

proceedings, unless you choose not to include the paper. These details plus others will be worked directly with every contributor to the technical program over the coming days.

The symposium's technical program will be published on the INCOSE IS 2020 website over the coming weeks. The scheduling of each session will be based on South Africa's time zone. Should a session's timeslots not be conducive, a participant will have the opportunity to watch a recording of the session, subject to the conditions of his/her registration.

### **Registration**

The registration fee for IS 2020, the virtual event, will be discounted from the original registration rates. The registration fees will be published on the symposium website. Registration will open in May. The setting of these fees has taken into consideration –

- The offering of a smaller-scaled event than originally planned,
- Cost adjustments related to holding a virtual event,
- The value of the content of the technical program,
- A tiered structure for membership types, and
- Continuing support of our current and near-term member services while absorbing a potential “contained” negative financial impact.

### **Exclusion of Business and Other Meetings**

To focus on providing a good technical program over the 3 days, we chose not to include as part of the virtual IS 2020 program the one-day strategy session, the weekend tutorials, business meetings and other meetings typically held by working groups and INCOSE leaders during the symposium. This removed any conflicts with respect to the scheduling and allowed all registered participants to take full advantage of the IS 2020 technical program. We will of course help with any request to organise an online collaboration with a dedicated virtual meeting at a time that is suitable for the majority of the meeting's participants outside of the 3 days symposium dates.

### **Awards**

The recognition and acknowledgement of individuals and groups is something we are proud to celebrate at INCOSE as part of our symposium. For IS 2020 we will still honour and rejoice in the hard work and success of our awards' recipients but in a different manner. Without giving away our surprise, I do urge you all to join the awards session at the symposium.

### **Exhibitors and Sponsors**

The virtual experience will provide opportunities to interact directly with our exhibitors and sponsors. It will be through a combination of meeting times, walking through a virtual exhibit hall and Q&A sessions. Further details will be made available over the coming weeks.

### **IS 2022 Cape Town**

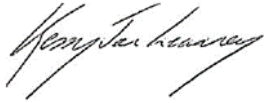
In acknowledgement of the effort over many years of the INCOSE South Africa Chapter in the support and promotion of INCOSE IS 2020, and the arrangements we have in place now to conduct a symposium in Cape Town, we have decided to come back to Cape Town in 2022. Yes, INCOSE IS 2022 will be in Cape Town! So please mark on your calendars, IS 2021, Honolulu, USA followed by IS 2022 Cape Town, South Africa.

### **Thank You**

I would like to extend a very big thank you to the Events team, the Technical Program team, and all our volunteers and members who continue to contribute to the success of INCOSE. In this fast-changing situation we are all living under, our INCOSE “esprit de corps” is coming through as evident in our cohesion as an organisation and our passion and tenacity “to make it happen.” Again, I thank you and wish the best to you and your families.

I look forward to meeting with you at IS 2020, our first international fully virtualised premier event.

Keep well, keep safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Lunney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kerry Lunney  
INCOSE President