

INCOSE Treasurer Candidate – René Oosthuizen

Vision

The satisfaction of being a member of INCOSE lies in the opportunity to contribute toward a discipline that can make a real difference in the way global challenges are perceived and responded to. Systems engineering transcends and integrates stove-pipe engineering disciplines. A holistic approach and rigorous principles and processes underpinning systems engineering are essential ingredients of all endeavours providing socio-economically responsible and globally sustainable engineered solutions in an increasingly complex environment.



Systems thinking and systems engineering has become a way of life to me, so much so that I believe “life is too precious to not live systems engineering”. To this end I am excited to be part of an organisation that is spreading the systems engineering gospel across the globe in its endeavours to realise its vision, “A better world through a systems approach”.

Organic growth and internationalisation are key factors in realising the INCOSE vision. However, spreading its wings across the globe is no trivial pursuit – INCOSE must poise itself to deal with the challenges of cultural, language, legal and value differences, as well as economic disparity. I am excited about the prospect of being able to contribute toward realising the INCOSE vision, as well as my vision, which is for INCOSE to become a “household” brand. To this end, I pledge to serve the organisation and its members by exercising due diligence in matters pertaining to finances and based on the following objectives:

- Ensuring sustainable growth for INCOSE
- Providing “value for money” for INCOSE members through frugal financial management
- “Levelling the international playing field” (referring to the internationalisation challenges outlined above) in terms of providing all Chapters and members equal access to INCOSE services and products, as well as to serve the organisation
- Endeavouring to broaden the scope of revenue streams to fund expanding operations and lessen the burden on membership fees

If elected, I will have the privilege and honour to extend my service to INCOSE and its membership to international level in pursuit of my stated vision and objectives.

Biography

René joined the South African Chapter of INCOSE (INCOSE SA) in 2004. He held the position of Chapter Treasurer from 2007-2009, Chapter President-Elect in 2010, Chapter President 2011-2012 and 2015-2016. During his term as Chapter President the Chapter achieved Gold Circle awards every year, Platinum Circle awards in 2015 and 2016, as well as the President’s award for outstanding achievement as INCOSE Chapter in 2011 and 2015. During the period 2007 to 2016 the Chapter blossomed, doubling its membership, doubling its annual conference attendance, and quadrupling its monetary reserves. René received a Lifetime Excellence Award at the INCOSE SA Chapter conference in 2013, and an INCOSE Outstanding Services award in 2014.

At Sector level, René participated in the EuSEC 2008 (IS2008) in Utrecht, EuSEC2010 in Stockholm, and EuSEC2012 (IS2012) in Roma. He was a member of the IS2012 Project Team, and Project Lead for the first EMEA Sector SE Conference (EMEASEC 2014), hosted by the INCOSE SA Chapter in Cape Town. He was a member of the EMEA Sector Task Team during its formative year in 2012 and presently is the EMEA Sector Assistant Director, a position he has held since 2013.

René has been active at INCOSE international level since 2009, attending every IW and IS until present. He participates in INCOSE strategy sessions, is a member of the Circle Awards evaluation team and has served on the Ways & Means Committee since 2015. He served on the Nominations and Elections Committee and is a member of the INCOSE Chapter Governance and Financial Model (CGFM) Task Team. Following the success of EMEASEC 2014, he is spearheading a South Africa Chapter bid to host IS2020 in South Africa.

Upon graduating with a BSc Eng (Electronics) from the University of Stellenbosch, René started a career in defence. After 15 years' service with the Armaments Corporation of South Africa, he spent 7 years in the defence industry with the Altech and Reunert groups. In 1994 he founded his own systems engineering company, Monzé Consultants, through which he has served the defence industry to this day.

He serves as trustee on several family trusts, and as board member of a winery. Since 2005 he has established a number of successful micro-enterprises in the hospitality, barbering and plumbing industries.

René holds a Master's in Business Leadership (MBL) from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and a Diploma in Export Management (Dip Ex P (SA)) from the erstwhile South African Foreign Trade Organisation (SAFTO).