

# THALES



## Establishing Yourself As An Engineering Leader

SOCORRO SYSTEMS SUMMIT, APRIL 2019  
PRESENTER - KERRY LUNNEY



# Have You Ever...

This document may not be reproduced, modified, adapted, published, translated, in whole or in part or disclosed to a third party without the prior written consent of Thales. © Thales 2015. All rights reserved.

networked  
leading to  
surprising  
opportunities

been in a  
building struck  
by lightning...  
twice

had a  
“discussion” with  
an unknown  
executive

been in a vehicle  
that was stoned

presented  
material with no  
knowledge or  
warning

worked under a  
desk with no  
lighting

slept next to a  
filing cabinet

gone into the  
field with your  
bag

left material  
your desk

**I HAVE! – Kerry’s “Unexpected Career Moments”**

led a humanity  
effort  
unexpectedly

got stuck in an  
elevator

sworn at in  
meetings

drank alcohol to  
establish  
credibility

OPEN

# My Career Start



## Think Again!

OPEN

# Who Am I?

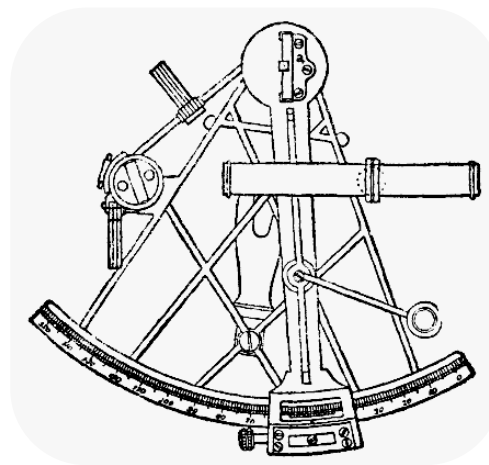
*"My name is Kerry Lunney and I am an engineer.*

*I specialise in Systems Engineering/Thinking/Concepts, ie "all things Systems".*

*I primarily work on large and/or complex technical solutions."*

## My current roles –

- Thales Australia Engineering Director / Chief Engineer
- International Council of Systems Engineering (INCOSE) –
  - President-Elect 2018-2019
  - President 2020-2021



# Quick Outline

- My Journey
- My Findings
- Your Path – What May It Be

# My Journey – My Ever-Changing Working World

## Wealth & Finance

Stability / GFC / Country Budget / ROI

## Organisation Origins

National Owned / International / Market Presence /  
Management Structure

## Globalisation

Competition / Opportunity / Timelines /  
Communication Speed /  
Information Availability

## Workforce Size

Globalisation / Skills Pool / Mobility /  
Demographics

## Politics

Policies, Processes,  
Frameworks /  
Ever Changing /  
Public Influence

## Traditional - Innovative

Domain Stability / Maturity / Risk Profile / Standards

## Commercial Complexity

Punishment / Copyright, IP / Services Growth / Contracting Models

## Advancing Technology

Data Explosion / Speed of Change /  
Speed of Adoption / Breadth vs Depth of  
Knowledge / Models / "x" Realities /  
Techno-Social Rise

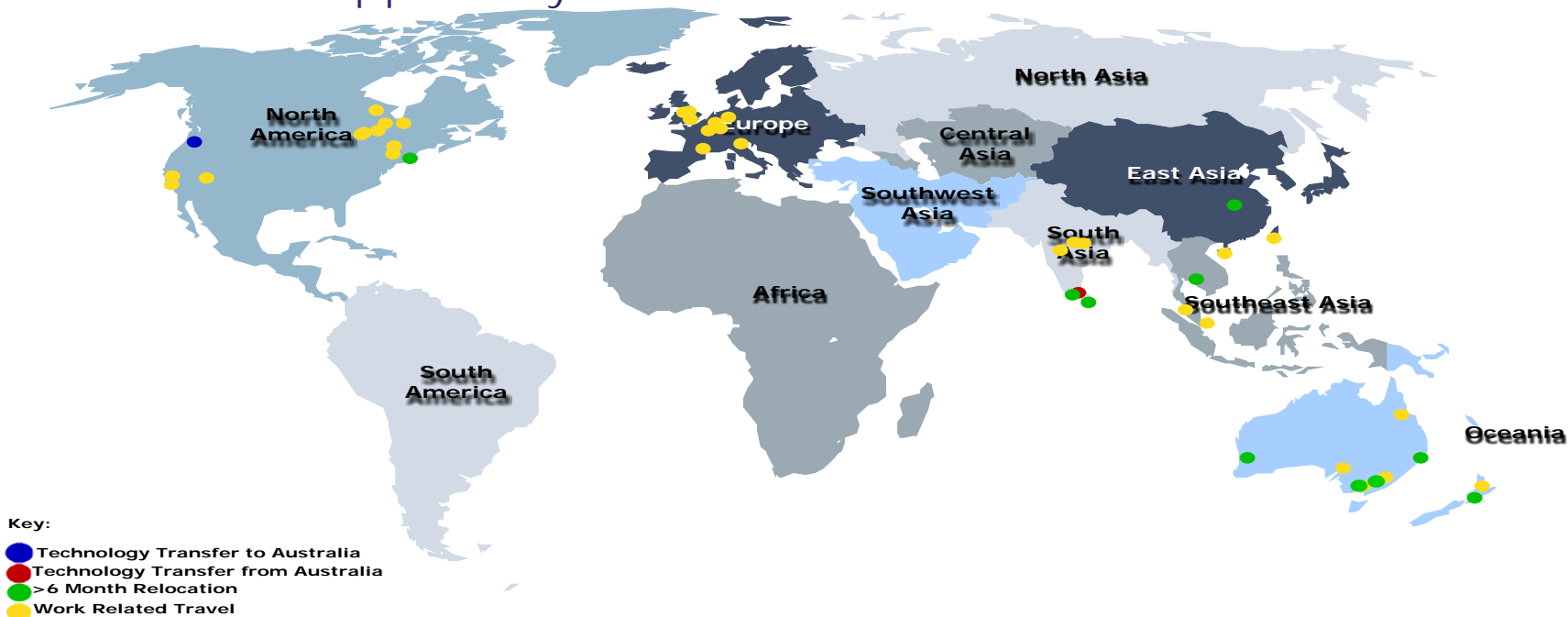
OPEN



THALES

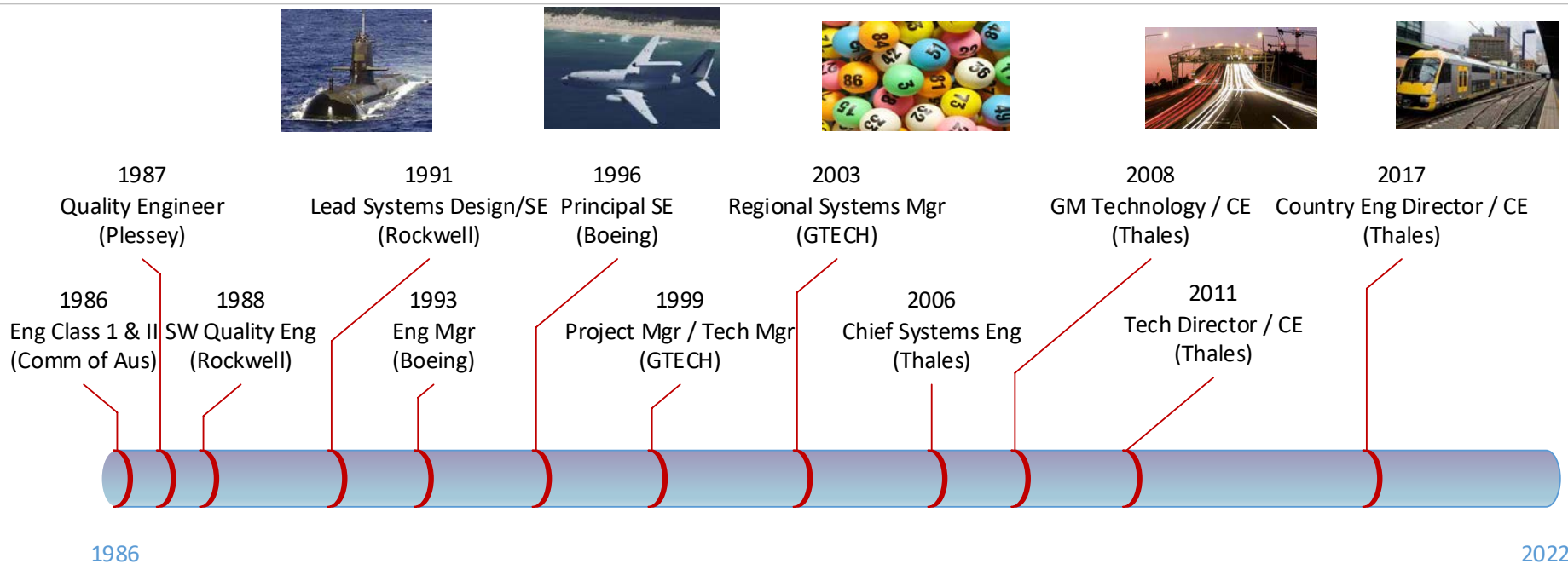
# My Journey - My Work Locations

## Globalisation vs Opportunity



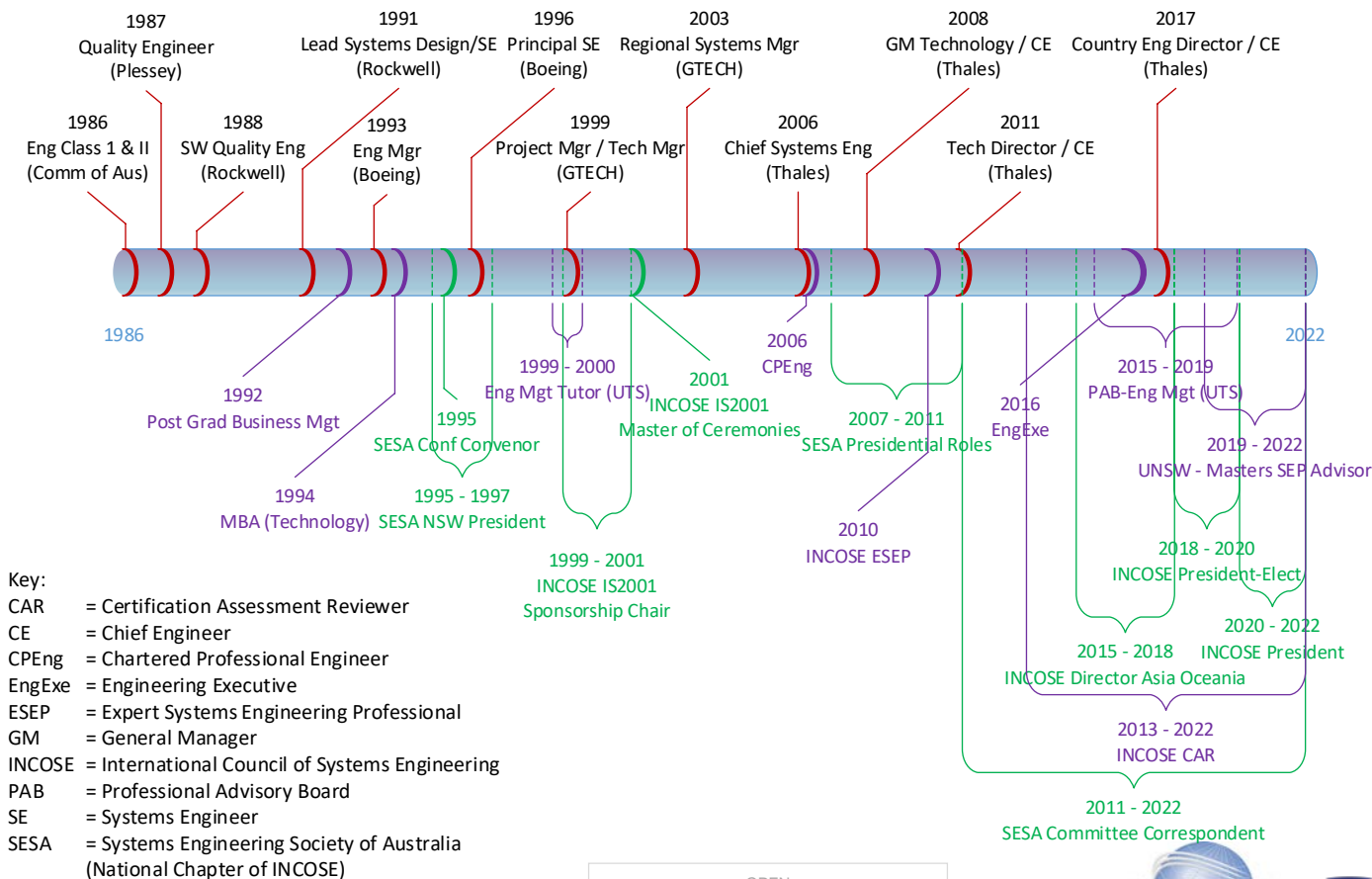
# My Journey - My Career Path

This document may not be reproduced, modified, adapted, published, translated, in any way, in whole or in part or disclosed to a third party without the prior written consent of Thales - © Thales 2015 All rights reserved.

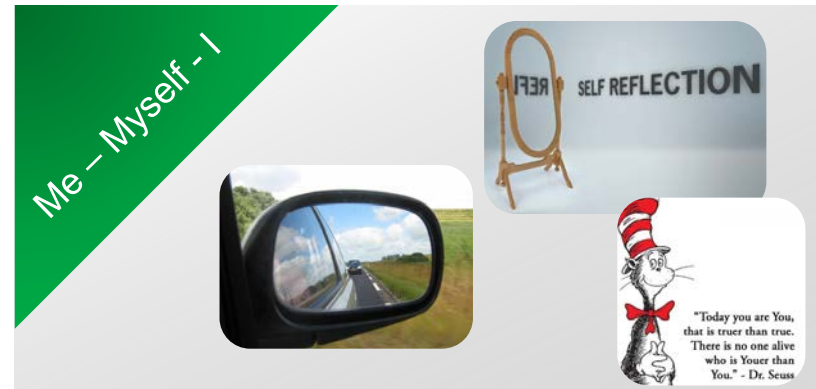
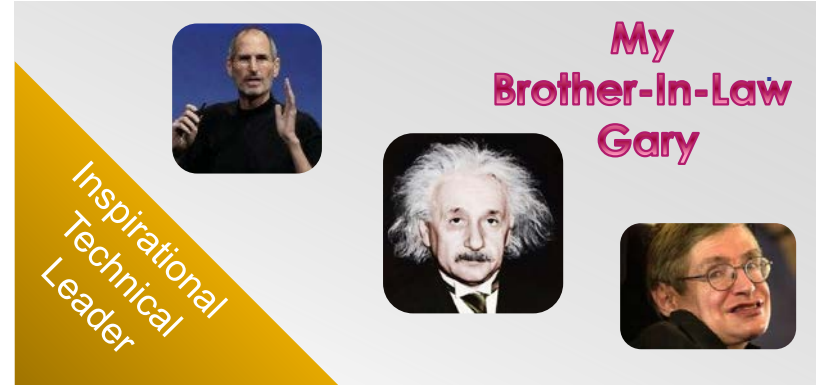
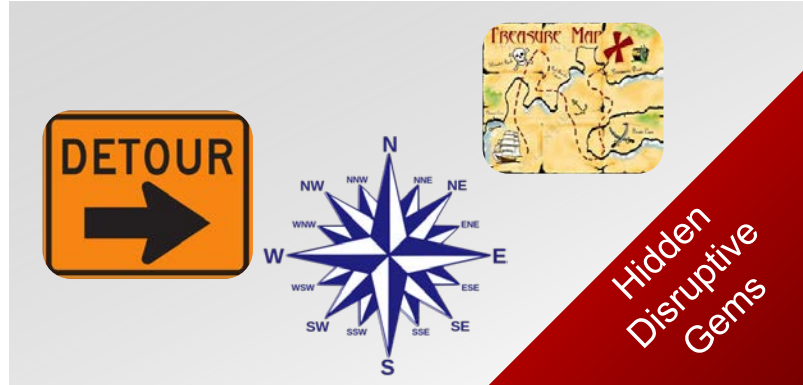




# My Extended Career Path – Contribution To Education & Domain



# My Findings



# My Findings - Inspirational Technical Leader

Look for inspiration amongst  
Technical Leaders

Hidden  
Disruptive  
Gems

The  
Champion

Me – Myself – I



Inspirational  
Technical  
Leader

- Who inspires you?
- Whose traits would you like to emulate?
- What styles resonate with you?
- Who would you not like to resemble?

# My Findings - Me-Myself-I

This document may not be reproduced, modified, adapted, published, translated, in any way, in whole or in part or disclosed to a third party without the prior written consent of Thales - © Thales 2015 All rights reserved.

"Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it.  
Boldness has genius, power & magic in it."

Source: Quote attributed to Goethe

Hidden  
Disruptive  
Gems

Inspirational  
Technical  
Leader

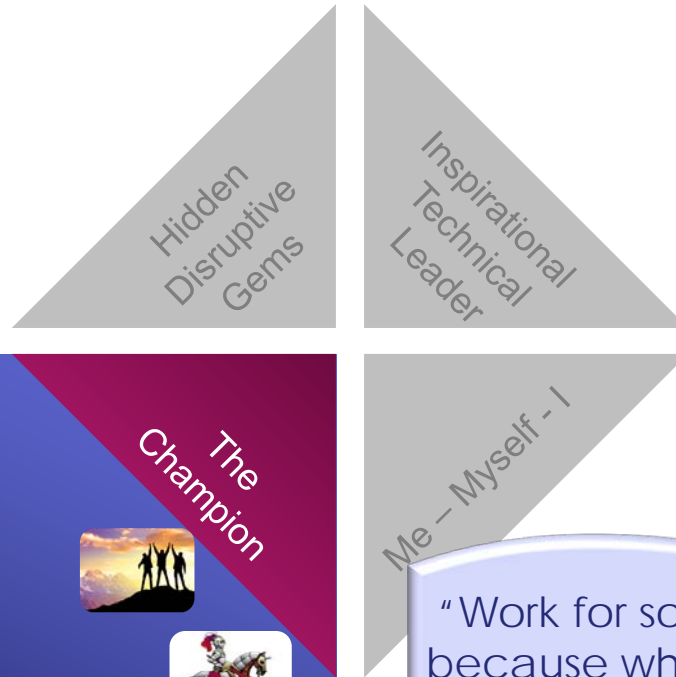
Char The

Me – Myself – I



- Work at it, build on your strengths
- Keep your creativity – balance art & science
- You have a voice
- Keep current
- Have a personal mantra

# My Findings - The Champion



- Identify your Champion –
  - Teacher/Coach/Mentor
  - Risk Taker
  - Challenger
- Walk through the doors opened for you



Source: Quote by Marissa Mayer, CEO, Yahoo!

"Work for someone who believes in you, because when they believe in you they'll invest in you."

OPEN

# My Findings - Hidden Disruptive Gems

- Make the most of the “unplanned”
- Learn from every experience
- Don't try to control what you can't
- Set targets



Hidden  
Disruptive  
Gems

Inspirational  
Technical  
Leader

The  
Champion

Me – Myself – I

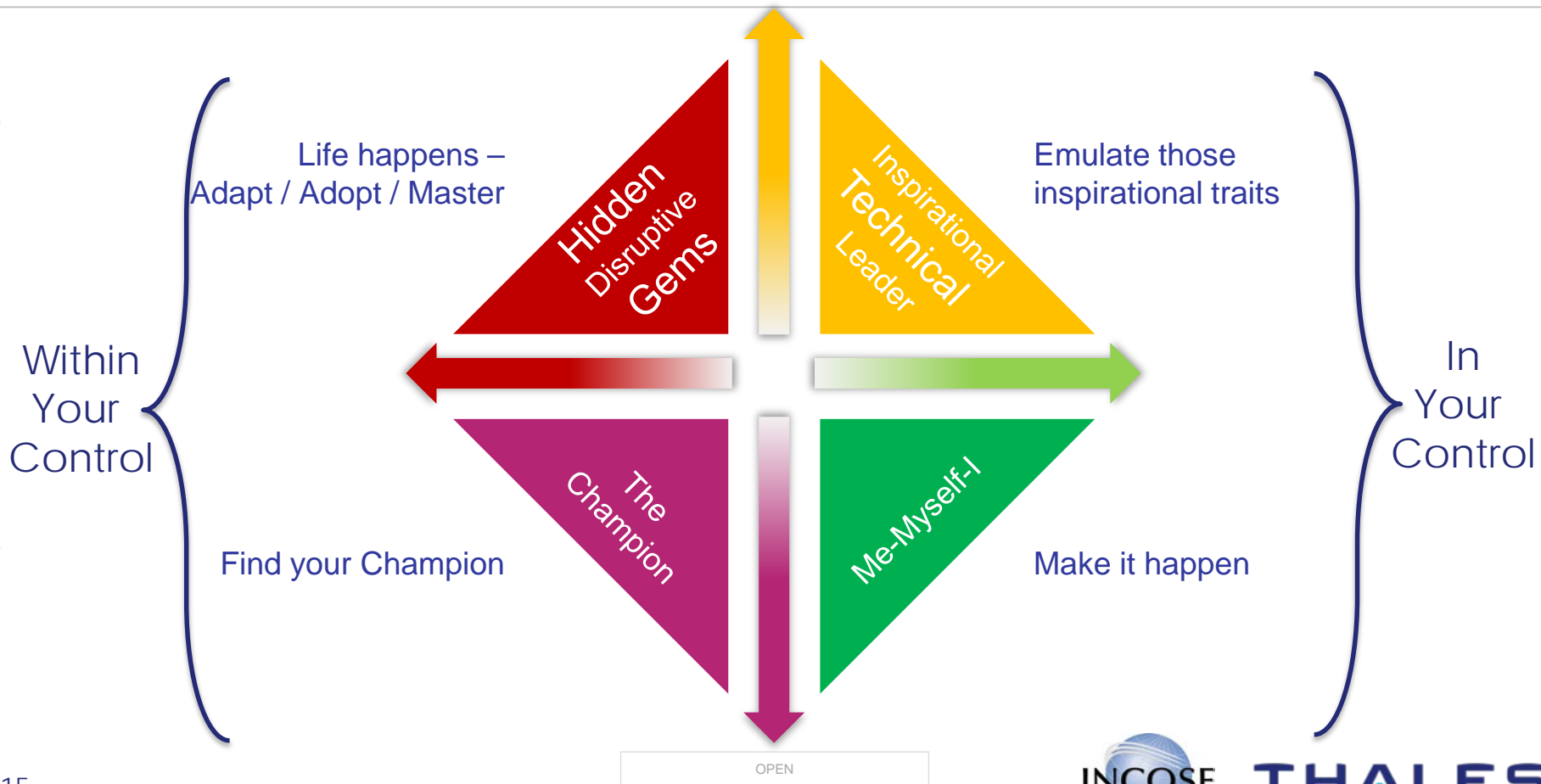
Be adaptable – everything can be  
an opportunity to learn from

OPEN

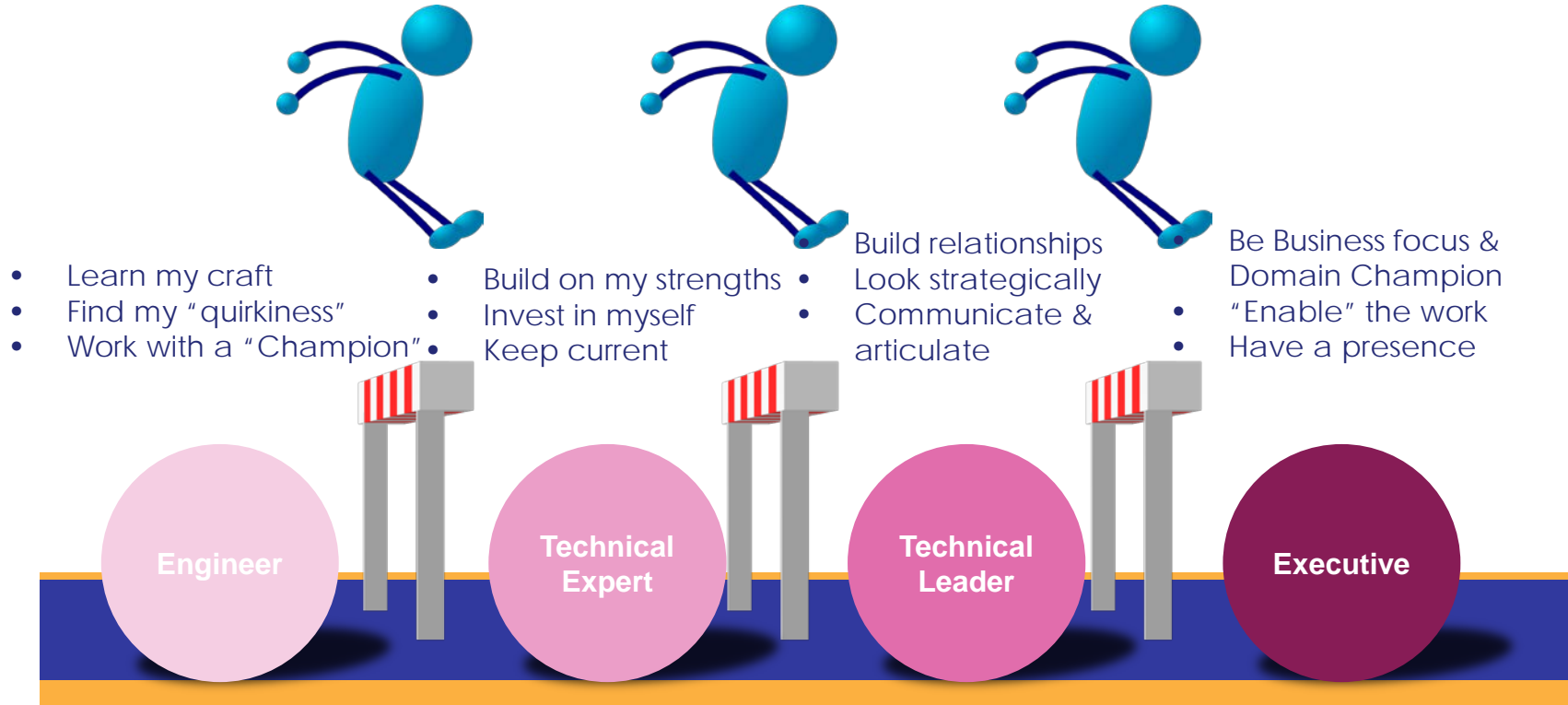


THALES

# My Findings - Embracing Technical Leadership

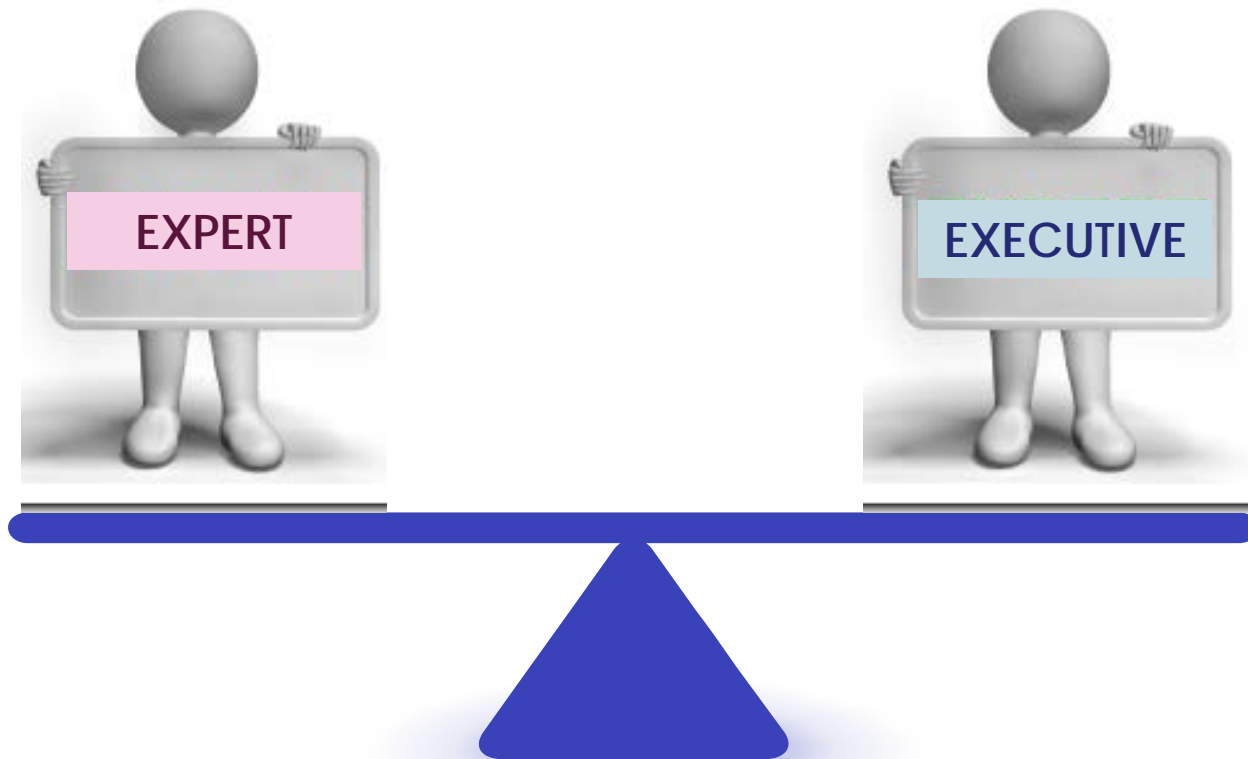


# Your Path – Advice To Myself





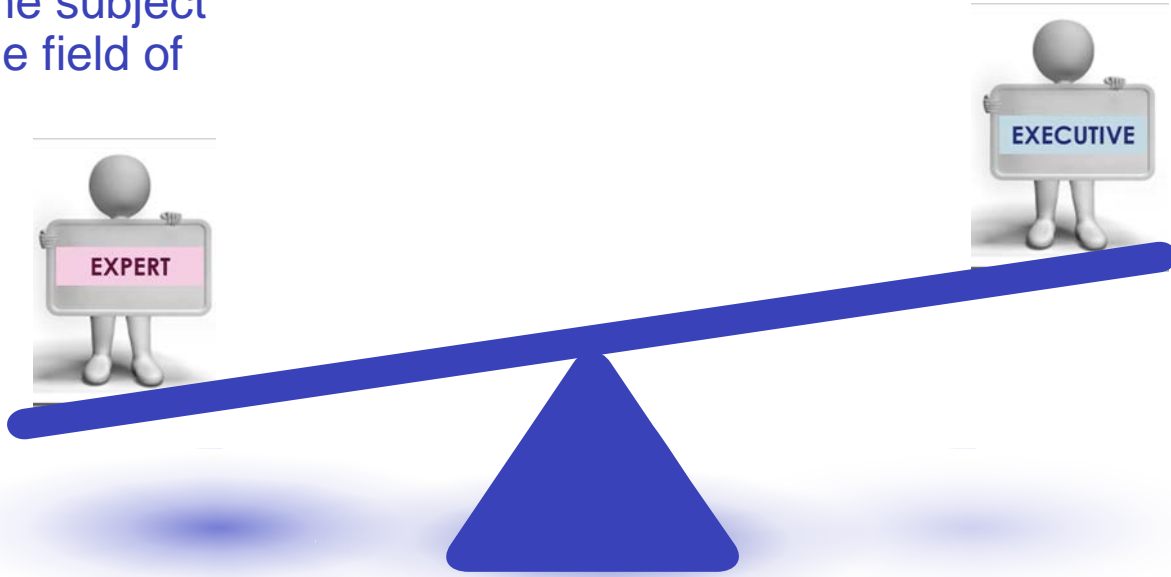
# Your Path – What May It Be?



OPEN

# The Path Of A Technical Expert...

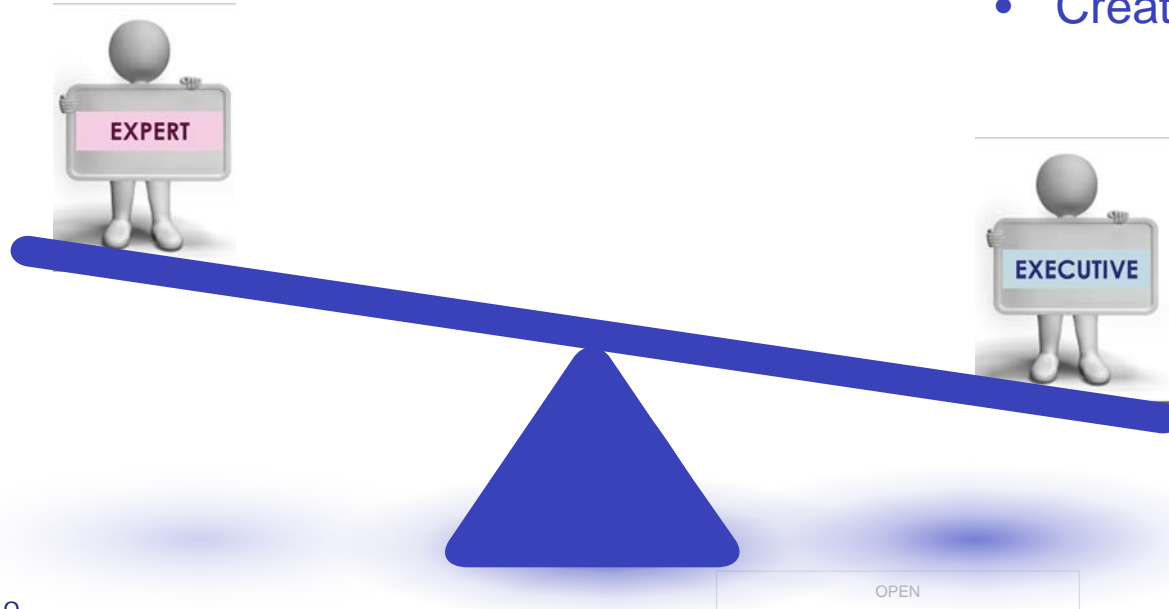
- Extensive knowledge &/or skill
- Recognised subject matter expert
- Holds passion for the subject
- Cannot “let go”
- Is the “go to” authority on the subject
- Continually advancing in the field of expertise



OPEN

# Or The Path Of An Executive...

- Thrives on the holistic “big picture”
- Can lead
- Creates strong teams
- Enables the work
- Can “let go”
- Creates a presence



# Hindsight vs Insight vs Foresight



# Question Time



Thank  
You

Kerry Lunney CPEng EngExe ESEP  
INCOSE President-Elect  
Thales Australia  
Country Engineering Director / Chief Engineer  
[kerry.lunney@thal.esgroup.com.au](mailto:kerry.lunney@thal.esgroup.com.au)



OPEN

