36th Annual **INCOSE** International Symposium

hybrid event

Yokohama, Japan
13 -18 June 2026

Call For Submissions

Beyond Digital Engineering: Seeking Wa in SE

While Digital Engineering (DE) continues to be a driving force in developing complex systems, today's societal challenges demand a more profound leap forward. The 2026 symposium will center on harmonizing emerging technologies with the irreplaceable power of human creativity and Kansei (sensibility), all guided by Wa, the Japanese concept of harmony.

How can Human Systems Integration (HSI) forge this essential synergy and effectively blend human ingenuity, Kansei, and advanced technologies like AI? What vital skills will systems engineers need to thrive in this new era of evolving DE? This focus on a human-centric, nature-harmonized approach will illuminate the path for systems engineering to not just adapt, but to lead the shaping of our future world.

[Wa] - Harmony

The INCOSE International Symposium is the premier international forum for systems engineering and systems approaches attracting a global audience ranging from novice practitioners to industry leaders. We call for submissions that provide new insights into attaining solutions to SE challenges based on experiences, trends, creativity, and innovations that will engage the symposium participants in active discussions. The submissions must fit the following categories: research papers, practice papers, paper-less presentations, panels, and tutorials. All papers of relevance to the INCOSE Systems Engineering community are welcome.

Symposium participants span a wide range of experience and competencies and submitters are encouraged to appeal to the greater audience by using a writing style that is as accessible as possible and by clearly stating how the contents of the submission contribute to attaining a solution to an SE challenge.

Presentation times will be either **30 or 45 minutes** (presentation, Q&A, and transfer) and be determined based on number of submissions, quality of submissions, and schedule. The acceptance notice will include your assigned presentation length.

Papers on the following topics are actively encouraged:

- Systems Thinking
- Continuous Delivery
- Managing System Complexity
- Agile SE
- Energy Transformation

- Mission Engineering
- Emergency Management
- New Innovative Approaches
- Systems Science Foundations

This symposium will have both in person and virtual programs. When submitting works (paper, presentation, or panel), the submitter should ensure they select the correct track (virtual or in person). Tutorials will only be offered in person. Note: Once accepted, moving from the in-person program to the virtual program or from the virtual program to the in-person program will not be possible.

All submissions need to be submitted in English using the EasyChair submission site. Submissions must be original work that has not previously been published.

AI Assistance Disclosure Guidelines Please disclose any AI tool usage related to your submission. Include a brief statement in your acknowledgments or footnote covering (1) which AI tools you used (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Grammarly), (2) how you used them, and (3) your level of involvement and oversight. Common categories of AI use include: conceptual (idea generation, hypothesis development, research design), analysis (literature review, statistical support, data analysis, coding assistance), content generation (drafting sections, creating abstracts, methodology development), editorial (grammar correction, formatting, citation management, translation). Note: For content generation and conceptual use, provide additional detail about your intellectual contributions. Example 1: "ChatGPT (GPT-4) assisted with grammar correction and code generation for simulations. All analysis and conclusions are original author work." Example2: "Claude Sonnet 4 helped summarize literature and draft methodology sections, which were extensively revised by authors. Grammarly provided editing support. Research design and interpretation are entirely author-generated. Submissions that do not comply with this guidance maybe rejected before review.

Key Dates

All Submissions

Submissions Due	2 January 2026
Notification of Acceptance	16 March 2026
Authors Acceptance Due	31 March 2026
Final Papers Due	16 May 2026

Call for Papers

Call for Research and Practice Papers

INCOSE encourages authors to submit high quality, rigorous, close-to-final draft papers addressing systems engineering challenges focused around the key domains and emphasis areas above.

Research papers should clearly articulate assumptions, methods, research procedures, present a rigorous approach to theory development, testing, and validation. Practice papers should clearly indicate problem space, assumptions, and approach through implementation. Ideally, a paper should cover the full scope of the problem and solution. Papers presenting research proposals coupled with initial results will also be considered.

Submitters must use the INCOSE Paper Template to prepare papers and MUST NOT exceed **7,000** words.

Accepted papers, whether for the in person or virtual program, will be presented at the Symposium and will be published in the Proceedings of the Symposium and on the INCOSE website.

Note: Accepted paper presenters are required to register and attend IS 2026, either in person or virtual; please see website for registration costs.

Presentations provide the opportunity for practitioners and researchers to share their work - progress, novel approaches, or interesting problems addressed without writing a formal paper. INCOSE encourages authors to submit detailed abstracts for high quality presentations addressing systems engineering challenges focused around the key domains and emphasis areas above.

Initial submissions for presentations include an extended abstract of no more than 1,000 words and should be submitted using the submission site for Presentations at. The submission should include the following elements:

- An overview of the topic – define the SE challenge of interest and its context
- Clearly identify specific related industries – explain why the problem is important and is worth studying under a SE approach
- Provide what the audience will take away from the presentation – outline methods and describe expected results
- Provide background on the presenter and his/her qualifications to provide the talk.

 Joint authors must nominate a single point of contact.

Please note that accepted presentations will be posted on the INCOSE website but are not included in the Proceedings of the Symposium nor in the Wiley Online Proceedings Library.

Note: Accepted presenters are required to register and attend IS 2026, either in person or virtual; please see website for registration costs

Call for Panels

INCOSE invites submissions for dynamic, engaging, and thought-provoking panel discussions that foster deep exploration of ideas, spark meaningful dialogue, and challenge conventional thinking. Panels should prioritize interactive, collaborative exchanges over a series of individual presentations followed by Q&A. The goal is to create a cohesive, conversational experience that actively involves panelists and the audience in exploring complex topics, sharing diverse perspectives, and generating new insights.

For the International Symposium, the term panel broadly refers to a session of more than two individuals that is not accompanied by a formal paper. This may take the form of a traditional panel, a roundtable discussion, an open forum, fireside chat or a debate. Panels that explore an unsettled or unexplored topic, fostering deep thought are desirable. Panels should commence with a single pre-agreed introduction of the panel topic and questions to be discussed. Panels should be either in person or virtual – no hybrid panels will be accepted. Panel durations will be multiples of presentation slots.

As part of the selection process, panel points of contacts should be prepared for a conversation with INCOSE TechOps to maximise the benefit to INCOSE members.

Once a panel proposal has been agreed and accepted the point of contact is required to provide the information defined in the Preparation Guidelines. Note that for all panel sessions, the moderator is responsible for ensuring that the content of the panel stays relevant to what was approved as well as professional.

Note: Panelists for accepted panels are required to register and attend IS 2026, either in person or virtual; please see website for registration costs

www.incose.org/symp2026

Tutorial proposals for the following types of classroom instruction will be considered:

- **Professional Development Tutorial:** intended for both practicing systems engineers who want to expand their systems engineering skills and seasoned professionals who are new to INCOSE concepts of systems engineering. It is important not only to instill in the tutorial participants a new skill, but also to make it clear how that skill can add real value to the participant's enterprise.

- **Advanced Technology Tutorial:** intended for practicing systems engineers. This introduces new technologies with potential to add real value to systems engineering practice although that potential has not yet been demonstrated.

- **Best Practices Implementation:** intended for practicing systems engineers who are interested in understanding how to apply systems engineering best practices with a domain-specific emphasis

The tutorial must not contain a sales presentation for the presenter or the presenter's company, and shall not contain proprietary data.

Following the review process, INCOSE may request to interview Tutorial Presenters to enable final acceptance.

If a tutorial is selected for inclusion in the Symposium, then one presenter will be eligible for a complimentary registration; however, this does not include the annual INCOSE membership fee, or any other expenses.

Note: Submitted tutorials will be in person.