



**Profile and Quadrennial Report to FIG Congress October 2006  
from  
The Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Founded in 1969, the Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (ICES) is recognised as an established and reputable professional institution for specialists studying and employed in commercial management and geospatial engineering surveying in the civil engineering industry, nationally and internationally.

The Institution aims to support, encourage, regulate and promote the interests of all its members and to increase the value of their services to the public. Membership has grown steadily and the Institution now boasts ten regions across the UK, Ireland and Hong Kong with members worldwide.

Members of the Institution have access to a comprehensive range of membership benefits and services, customary with a specialist professional institution.

The ICES is an active member of the UK Construction Industry Council (CIC), having become the first non-chartered organisation admitted to the membership of this body in 1989. In 1992 the ICES became an Associated Institution of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), forming together two boards; the Geospatial Engineering Board (GEB) and the Commercial Management Board (CMB). The agreement with the ICE offers many benefits, including the use of their library, which is acknowledged as one of the best technical libraries in the world. The Institution is also a full member of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and of the PI-UK CHINA Group – a Grouping of leading UK-based Professional Institutions, which have grouped together to create a special forum for dealings with China. More recently, in 2005, the ICES joined with the ICE, the IMechE and the Royal Academy of Engineering and others to create the Media Challenge – a challenge to find a writer/author to help raise the profile of the engineering industries.

In 1992 the Institution was successful in its application to the Charity Commission to become recognised as an educational charity. As a result of this, it had to establish a separate company to perform its commercial activities. SURCO Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Institution, now carries out these activities. SURCO Ltd is the publisher of the Institution journal, *Civil Engineering Surveyor*, and in addition to activities that are specific to the Institution, identifies and develops other publications and initiatives relevant to construction.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP SPECIALISMS**

With the ever changing nature of the industry, new legislation and working practices and the continuing advances in survey technology, professionals with other specialist skills have become involved with the various aspects of construction commercial management and with providing, managing and using geospatial data to facilitate construction projects. As a result, the Institution has widened its membership to include professionals of other specialisms that fall naturally within the aegis of its remit. Members may specialise under one or more of the following categories within civil engineering surveying:

### **2.1 Commercial Management**

The Institution recognises that the term commercial management embraces a number of different skills. These skills are constantly evolving to reflect the changing face of civil engineering. Those involved in this profession are responsible for all aspects of the financial and contractual administration of construction contracts, from initial feasibility studies to conclusion of the final account. The commercial management discipline encompasses the following specialisms:

- Construction Economics
- Cost Engineering
- Construction Law
- Estimating
- Planning
- Procurement Engineering
- Project Management
- Quantity Surveying

### **2.2 Geospatial Engineering**

Geospatial engineering encompasses the skills of those professionals working within the built environment, including civil engineering, either providing input to, analysing, managing or using output from the geospatial database or involved in the setting out and dimensional control of construction projects. The geospatial engineering discipline encompasses the following specialisms:

- Cartography/Visualisation
- Engineering Surveying (Dimensional Control)
- Geographical Information Systems
- Hydrographic Surveying
- Land Surveying
- Photogrammetry
- Remote Sensing

### 3. GRADES OF MEMBERSHIP

The Institution offers seven grades of professional membership, each designed to develop the skills and knowledge of those studying and employed in the civil engineering surveying industry. These range from a **Student Member** (offered to those studying on a full-time ICES accredited course), through **Affiliate Member**, **Graduate Member**, **Associate Member AMInstCES**, **Technical Member TInstCES**, **Corporate Member MInstCES** and **Fellow FInstCES** (senior and highly experienced civil engineering surveyor and is the most senior grade of membership).

### 4. BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The Institution offers a range of benefits and services for its members, customary with an established and reputable specialist professional institution. Members also enjoy a range of complementary services that are provided by the Institution's marketing and publications company, SURCO Ltd. Whilst each individual grade of membership offers bespoke benefits, the Institution's core membership benefits and services are set out in the Appendix attached to this Profile and Report.

### 5. UP TO DATE REPORT TO FIG CONGRESS JULY 2006

**There is little doubt** that one of, if not the most significant element of my Presidency has been the effort that I committed the ICES to, in undertaking the Dubai and Far East Tour earlier this year by not just myself, but by the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Hong Kong Region as well. If my Presidency will be remembered for anything, it might well be the commitment that I gave to the ICES interests in China, and to relationships with kindred institutions.

I declared in my inaugural speech on taking up the Presidency, that there were five principal planks in my platform. Let me report to you what has happened in respect of each of them.

- **to actively maintain the unity of the two quite disparate arms of ICES** – unity has definitely been maintained. As a commercial management (CM) President, I have been made particularly welcome in many Geospatial engineering (GE) strongholds, in furtherance of the unity that we seek in this Institution. The GE and the CM sides of the Institution have never been particularly close in that professionally, we do not have a lot in common, but what we do have in common, is a passion for the advancement of the science and art of the civil engineering specialist surveyor, and the two arms of our Institution have never been closer together than they are now.
- **to maintain and enhance the profile of ICES nationally and internationally.** The ICES has been welcomed into the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Media Challenge as an equal, and we now sit as a full-blown member of the PI-UK China Group (the Grouping of leading UK-based Professional Institutions which have grouped together to create a special forum for dealings with China); ICES has received the continued emphatic support of the current President of the ICE, and our relationship with the ICE has never

been stronger than it is today; the ICES currently chairs the ICE's Joint Management Board and we have signed the third Memorandum of Understanding with the ICE; building upon the doors that were opened by our Previous President, we have cemented a very close and cordial working relationship with CHINCA (the Chinese International Contractors Association) and a number of premier Chinese International Contractors themselves; we have held detailed working meetings with the ICE in Shanghai, with the British Council in Shanghai, and with the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS), with the RICS UAE Group, and with the British High Commissioner's Office in Singapore. I am therefore very confident in saying that the national and international standing of the Institution has never been higher than it is today.

- **to improve communications with the membership, especially between the Regions and HQ and to bring home to the membership, the realisation of the family of ICES; that it is THEIR Institution.** My predecessor, Bob Fleming, declared in his Annual Report that the focus of his year as President had been to more actively engage with members outside the UK. As part of that, he and some members from the Hong Kong region made two trips to Beijing to meet with CHINCA and also visited Singapore and Dubai. When I took office, I had no especial plans to build upon the openings that had been created by my predecessor, but as the year progressed, it became apparent to me that these openings represented a massive opportunity that I decided had to be pursued. As such, I committed the Institution to the biggest overseas expenditure that it had ever made in sending the Executive Director and myself on a 15 day Dubai and Far East trip, which also involved the Chairman of the Hong Kong Region for almost a week of that time. That trip has been widely reported and I will not try and do justice to it here; suffice to say that it was a very successful trip. We are now on the brink of creating the first new Region of the Institution for 20 years (in Dubai), and have done so with the help and support of the RICS UAE Group. I have also managed to visit many of the Institution's established Regions, in addition to the inaugural meeting of the Belfast Branch of the ICES Irish Region. I can therefore report that communications with the membership, and between the Regions and HQ is at an all time high.
- **to further ICES aspirations for Chartered recognition** – The Institution has set up a Working Group to conduct a detailed review of the process of proceeding to petition for a Royal Charter.
- **to consolidate and reinforce the ICES contribution to FIG** – the ICES FIG Group is now a fully-fledged independent working Committee within the ICES, whereas formerly it was not, responsible direct to the Council of Management, and we have active ICES members participation in a number of the Commissions of FIG; indeed, one of our members is currently the Chairman of Commission 10, arguably the most commercially and economically orientated Commission of FIG. The FIG four-yearly Congress which will take place in Munich in October 2006 is scheduled to have the largest ICES contribution ever, and there is scheduled to be no less than 10 ICES delegates to the Congress – a clear and manifest demonstration of the ICES commitment to FIG; the ICES also attended the annual working week in Ghana earlier in the year. So I can again report that the ICES contribution has definitely been consolidated and reinforced.

The next meeting of FIG after Munich, is of course due to take place in May 2007 in Hong Kong, and the ICES has a very large and flourishing Regional organisation there whose members will, I hope, play their full part in conjunction with the HKIS and other organisations to make that meeting a success.

Finally, you asked that each Member Report address the issue of the **Millennium Development Goals**; there are very few that fall within the professional and technical possible ambit of this Institution, but those that do, the ICES is and has been addressing viz.

Ensure environmental stability - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources – ICES now has an Environmental Policy which supports this aspiration and which imposes obligations upon its members to uphold certain environmental principles.

Develop a Global Partnership for Development - In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies— especially information and communications technologies. It is relevant to note that several of the Papers, which ICES and its members are presenting at this Congress, address this very subject.

Whether this Institution can and should be doing more, will be for my FIG members to bring to the attention of my Council of Management; in the words of the well-established anecdote - we are doing what is possible; the rest will take a little longer !

So, in presenting this Institutional Profile and Report to Congress in this way, I hope that you feel that I have brought you up to date with what has been happening in the ICES.

With most sincere Institutional greetings to you all,



John M.D.Bacon. FRICS FCI Arb FInstCES FICE  
Chartered Quantity Surveyor. Chartered Arbitrator.  
President.  
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## **APPENDIX 1 – to the ICES Profile and Report to FIG Congress – July 2006.**

### **BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF ICES**

The Institution offers a range of benefits and services for its members, customary with an established and reputable specialist professional institution. Members also enjoy a range of complementary services that are provided by the Institution's marketing and publications company, SURCO Ltd. Whilst each individual grade of membership offers bespoke benefits, the Institution's core membership benefits and services include :-

**Accredited Courses** – As an educational charity, the Institution has a strong interest in the field of education and is committed to developing strong links with educational establishments. The Institution has awarded accreditation to NVQ qualifications, together with a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses that are now offered by educational establishments across the UK and in Ireland and Hong Kong. These qualifications cover both commercial management and geospatial engineering disciplines. In addition, the Institution offers its own Corporate Entry Assessment, which is a distance learning based course and assessment for candidates applying for membership without an accredited or cognate qualification.

**Approved Training Schemes** - The ICES believes that, where practical, employers of civil engineering surveyors should encourage their employees in acquiring the necessary training and work experience to satisfy the Institution's criteria for approved relevant experience, as required for Corporate Membership. The Institution actively encourages companies who employ civil engineering surveyors to adopt an ICES Approved Training Scheme, which can be tailored to meet the training requirements of each company's training policy. Such training schemes are prepared for commercial management and geospatial engineering training professionals. The Institution's Core Training Objectives listed in the Training Guidelines form the basis of all ICES Approved Training Schemes.

**Civil Engineering Surveyor** - The Institution provides for its members a regular journal, Civil Engineering Surveyor (CES). The journal contains extensive news of the industry and profession as well as new developments in survey instrumentation, software systems and surveying techniques. Regular articles and technical papers on commercial management and geospatial engineering are also featured.

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** - The Institution is a member of the Construction Industry Council's CPD in Construction Group and endorses its definition and interpretation of CPD. This states that CPD is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties throughout a practitioner's working life. The Institution goes to great lengths to ensure that all candidates are competent to meet the academic and experience requirements for the grade of membership applied for. Meticulous attention to the CPD requirements of all members of the Institution ensures that industry standards are maintained and individuals grow professionally. The Institution offers its

members guidance on how to plan, implement, record and monitor their training and development and organises a wide range of CPD activities. The Institution regularly monitors the professional development activity of its members in accordance with its CPD policy and regulations.

**Yearbook and Directory of Members** - The Institution publishes an annual Yearbook and Directory of Members, which summarises the events of the last year, provides technical information and a listing of all members.

**Institution Logo** - The Institution allows its Corporate Members and Fellows to apply for the use of its logo on company stationery, literature and signboards to demonstrate affiliation with a specialist professional institution for civil engineering surveyors and professional status.

**Institution Prizes and Awards** - The Institution awards a number of prestigious prizes in recognition of an individual's outstanding achievement within the industry.

**Events and Activities** - An extensive programme of meetings, lectures, seminars, site visits and socials is held throughout the country and overseas, organised by the Institution's regional committees. The Institution also organises, through its marketing and publications company SURCO Ltd, a range of national conferences through its core committees and specialist panels, together with its annual general meeting and the prestigious annual Institution Dinner. The events hosted by the Institution qualify as CPD activities and provide excellent networking opportunities with fellow professional colleagues.

**Specialist Supplementary Publications** - Other publications produced by SURCO Ltd include annual supplements on construction law, electronic surveying and GIS/GPS.

**SURCO Bookshop** - The Institution adds to its own list of publications when subjects and authors knowledgeable in commercial management or geospatial engineering have been identified. Construction publications are available for sale to Institution members, other professionals and the public. A favourable discount is available to ICES members.

**Technical Advice** - The Institution's specialist committees and panels offer advice on a range of technical queries and prepare technical papers for publication in the Institution's monthly journal, Civil Engineering Surveyor and other specialist literature.

**Training Guidelines** - A series of Training Guidelines have been prepared by the Institution to offer guidance on the training and experience requirements and standards expected from a candidate for the Corporate Member grade application. Guidelines have been prepared for both commercial management and geospatial engineering specialists. Under these Training Guidelines, candidates applying for the Corporate Member grade of membership would be expected to satisfy a range of training and experience objectives, as set out in the Institution's Core Training Objectives.

**Training Courses and Workshops** - The Institution offers a comprehensive range of courses and workshops tailored to the professional training and development needs of those specialising in commercial management within the civil engineering surveying industry. These courses are available either as an external course, which would be held at an ICES venue, or as an in-house course, where the Institution is able to present a course within a company's own premises. The content of each course is monitored to ensure quality and compliance with the Institution's own core elements of its training and development policy.

**Training Suite** - The Institution's training suite/boardroom at its Head Offices in Sale, Cheshire is available for hire, subject to availability.

**Benefits enjoyed through ICE** - Members of the Institution also enjoy a range of reciprocal benefits through association with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) including use of the members' business centre, restaurant bar and meeting room, together with the use of their library at the ICE headquarters in London. Members will also have the opportunity to attend selected ICE events and those organised by the joint ICE/ICES boards.