Engineering Council

40 YEARS of engineering standards

Annual Review 2021

www.engc.org.uk

INTRODUCTION
CHRIS ATKIN

2021 marks the Engineering Council's 40th year of setting and maintaining standards: incorporated by Royal Charter in November 1981 to regulate the engineering profession in the UK, our vision is to ensure that society continues to have confidence and trust in the engineering profession.

We published our 2025 Strategy 'Advancing Regulation' in July 2021, with the overarching goal 'To maintain the public's confidence in the engineering profession through wider promotion of the Engineering Council's regulatory work, its leadership role within the engineering community and a greater, more diverse and engaged registrant population'. This Strategy is focussed around four key themes, which inform and structure our subsequent strategic outcomes: Diversity & Inclusion (D&I), Digital Innovation, International, Engineering & Society.

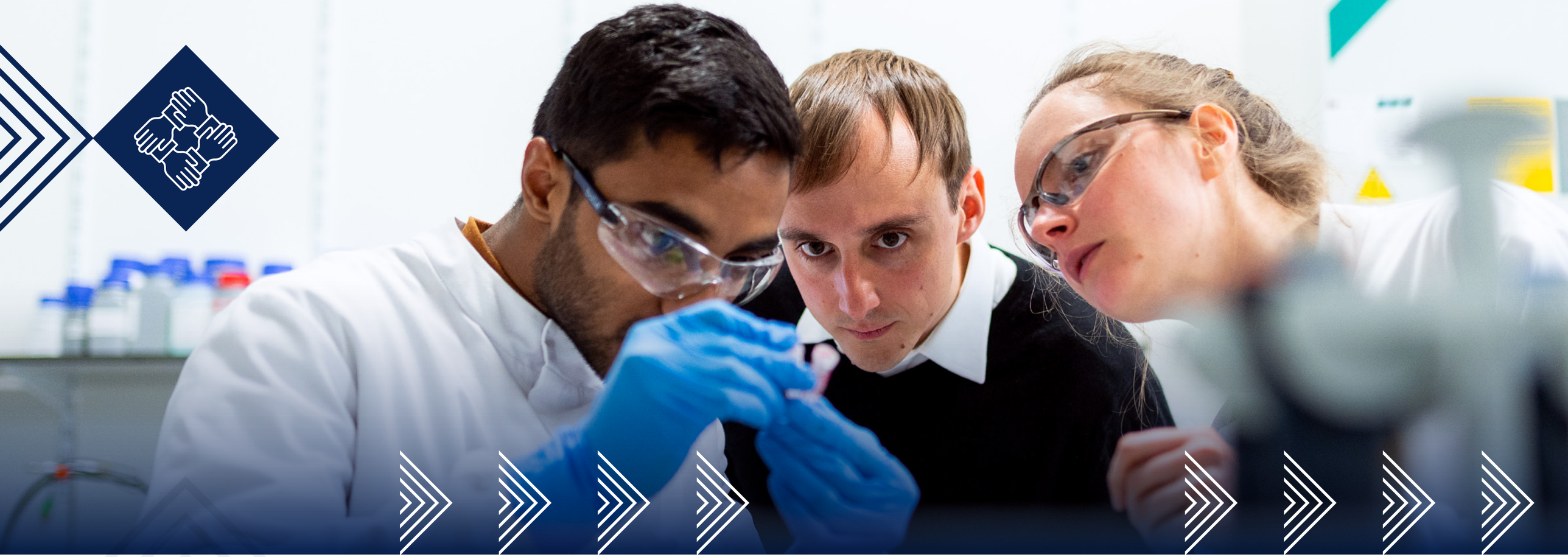
There are currently over quarter of a million professionally registered engineers and technicians on the Engineering Council's Register, all of whom have committed to maintaining and developing their knowledge throughout their careers. The 2021 Ipsos MORI Veracity Index shows that engineers are trusted by 84% of respondents, but engineers must continually evaluate how ethical behaviours need to improve and evolve. Far from being complacent, our on-going work on ethics looks to further embed ethical culture and practice into the profession, including operating sustainably, inclusively and with respect for diverse views.

During 2021, we continued to support the new Building Safety regime through the development of a competence framework for engineering professionals working on higher-risk buildings, which will lead towards a Contextualised Register for competent professionals in this area. To support this work and our public benefit requirement, we also launched RegCheck, an online tool that can be used to verify an individual's Engineering Council registration. Our revised Standards have been implemented from 31 December 2021, with support and guidance available for prospective registrants and the professional engineering institutions (PEIs) we license. The revised ICT*Tech* Standard has also been published during 2021, promoting this key technician title.

2021 continued to hold a degree of pandemic-related uncertainty, but the Engineering Council has operated flexible working arrangements in response and continued to operate our core functions effectively. Our governance arrangements have continued to work smoothly and business processes remained operational, supported by our continued certification to the ISO 9001: 2015 quality standard.

In delivering the objectives set out in the 2025 Strategy, the Engineering Council remains focussed on the future of the profession. We set and maintain internationally recognised standards of engineering competence and commitment, license PEIs to assess their members against those standards and hold the Register of the individual engineers and technicians assessed as meeting them. Now and in the future, professional registration is a crucial means of maintaining society's trust and further embedding a culture of ethical, sustainable behaviour among the engineering community.

Professor Chris Atkin CEng FRAeS FREng
Chairman



VISION AND MISSION

WHAT WE DO, WHY AND HOW WE DO IT

VISION:

That society continues to have confidence and trust in the engineering profession.

MISSION:

To maintain internationally recognised standards of competence and commitment for the engineering profession, and to license competent institutions to champion the standards for the deliverance of public benefit.

WHAT WE DO

- Develop and maintain common professional standards for engineering competence and commitment
- License professional engineering institutions to professionally develop and assess engineers and technicians against the common standards
- Maintain the national Register of professionally registered engineers and technicians

WHY WE DO IT

- To safeguard the public

HOW WE DO IT

- Self-regulation by peer review

ENGINEERING COUNCIL STRATEGY

We published our 2025 Strategy, 'Advancing Regulation' in July 2021. The goal of that Strategy is:

To maintain the public's confidence in the engineering profession through wider promotion of the Engineering Council's regulatory work, its leadership role within the engineering community and a greater, more diverse and engaged registrant population.

Our 2025 Strategy is focussed around four key themes:

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
To support, develop and encourage a more diverse and inclusive profession

DIGITAL INNOVATION
To support a more digitally innovative profession

INTERNATIONAL
To maintain, develop and promote an internationally respected standard

ENGINEERING & SOCIETY
To strengthen the sustainable and ethical core of the engineering profession

Our two Strategic Enablers, which inform and structure our subsequent strategic outcomes:

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE
Ensuring that we maintain and enhance an agile and efficient operations model

STRATEGIC PARTNERING
Ensuring that we maintain and enhance key strategic alliances with a range of important stakeholders

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

Existing Strategic Objectives continued to run through the first half of the year and key workstreams – such as those promoting our Standards, facilitating mobility and maintaining pathways into the profession – have transitioned into the 2025 Strategy.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

To support, develop and encourage a more diverse and inclusive profession

We have established a new Diversity & Inclusion Working Group to identify, consider and develop proposals to address any issues creating barriers to the profession and professional recognition.

Work on a Volunteer Support Programme to provide support, guidance and training for all EngC volunteers has progressed, including development of a volunteer handbook and induction form.

Improving and promoting key technician products across the professions, we have published the revised ICT*Tech* Standard (for implementation by 31 March 2022) and produced guidance to support the Approval and Accreditation of Qualifications and Apprenticeships (AAQA).

To broaden the appeal of engineering and reflect the full breadth of talent, it is imperative that all sectors and disciplines of the profession keep pace.

DIGITAL INNOVATION

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

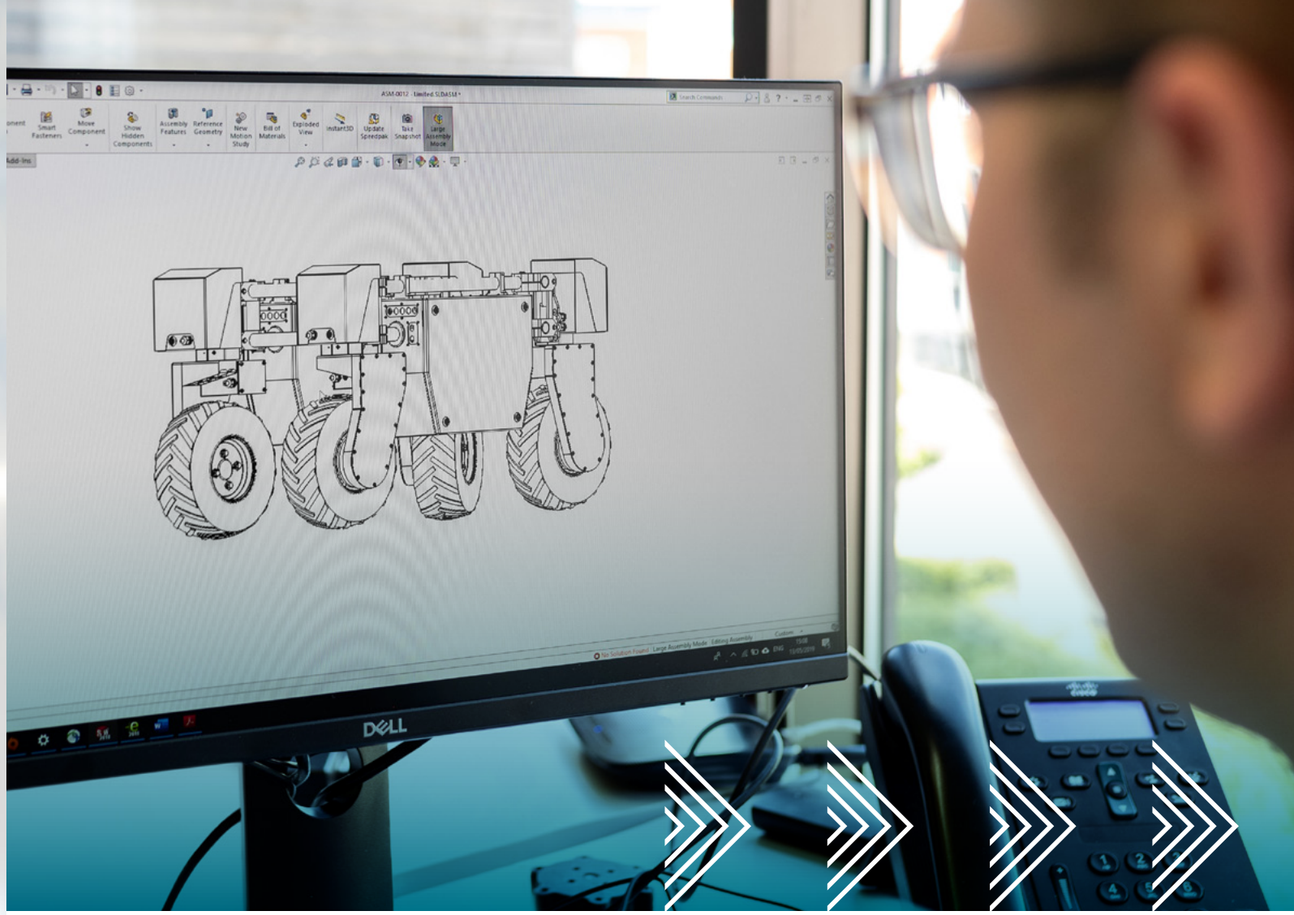
To support a more digitally innovative profession

Promoting awareness of the Register and professional registration, we have launched RegCheck - an online tool that enables employers, clients and members of the public to verify an individual's Engineering Council registration.

Supporting the development of professional development tools, we have worked closely with stakeholders to identify priority areas for the enhancement of our mycareerpath application.

We continue to embrace business improvement techniques, including contributing to development and testing of a system for online applications for European Engineer (EUR ING) registration and submitting UK data for accredited engineering programmes to the European Engineering Education Database (EEED, previously the FEANI INDEX).

As the scope of engineering continues to expand and develop, the Engineering Council must be able to respond to accelerating technological change.



INTERNATIONAL

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

To maintain, develop and promote an internationally respected standard

We continue to collaborate with a range of international partner organisations, including members of the International Engineering Alliance (IEA), European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) and European Network for the Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAEE), to facilitate the mobility of engineers and promote our internationally respected Standards based on competence.

Good progress has been made with the ENGINET group of European regulators on establishing common processes and standards for competence-based registration, enabling more open access to the profession.

We are engaging with government on a range of key regulatory issues, including active involvement in meetings of the Department of International Trade (DIT) Trade Technical Group and providing input on the mutual recognition of qualifications, Free Trade Agreements and Regional Partnerships, to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and DIT respectively.

At the heart of Engineering Council's international activity will be a clear decision and articulation on how it intends to engage internationally.

ENGINEERING & SOCIETY

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

To strengthen the sustainable and ethical core of the engineering profession

We have fully updated our 'Guidance on Sustainability' and 'Guidance on Risk' for individual engineers and technicians, as well as adding key cyber-security resources to our 'Guidance on Security'.

The joint Engineering Ethics Reference Group (EERG) established with the Royal Academy of Engineering has developed a pan-profession action plan to further embed an ethical culture across the engineering profession, for publication in early 2022.

As part of the Cyber Security Alliance, we have provided key regulatory support and advice - including on professional ethics and Standards - for the formation of the UK Cyber Security Council.

The Engineering Council will seek to embed a culture of ethics into all disciplines and sectors to promote public trust in all engineering professionals.

GOING FORWARD

The outcomes we will achieve by 2025 are set out in our Strategy, 'Advancing Regulation' by Themes. Delivery of outcomes will be through key activities set out in annual business plans with clearly defined metrics of success which will be communicated to stakeholders.

Our overall success criteria are:

- a more diverse and inclusive profession
- a more digitally innovative profession
- an internationally respected standard
- an engineering profession with sustainability and ethical principles at its core

www.engc.org.uk/strategy

INTERESTED IN PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION?

Find out more:

EngTech: **www.engc.org.uk/engtech**

ICTTech: **www.engc.org.uk/icttech**

IEng: **www.engc.org.uk/ieng**

CEng: **www.engc.org.uk/ceng**

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