

THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

BY

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The strong links between the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Royal Navy were forged over a hundred years ago. Indeed, one of the eight founders of the Society of Telegraph Engineers, as the IEE was first known, was Captain Philip Columb, later to reach the rank of vice-admiral. Another naval figure who featured prominently in the early history of the Institution was Captain Henry Jackson RN who did much pioneering work in wireless telegraphy and went on to become First Sea Lord. Captain Jackson became an Associate of the Society in 1883 and retained a close interest in the work of the Institution. In more modern times, Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, the first Engineer Officer to become Controller of the Navy, was elected President of the Institution in 1985.

The links between the Royal Navy and the IEE have been maintained, particularly in the field of engineering education and training. The naval engineering degree offered at the Royal Naval Engineering College at Manadon was one of the first electrical engineering courses to be accredited by the Institution.

The Royal Navy has made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in electrical science education and training technology and the opportunities offered by the Service are substantial. Why then should its engineer officers consider joining a professional institution such as the IEE?

As the representative body of the electrical and electronic engineering profession, the IEE has a worldwide membership of almost 110 000 and is the largest engineering society in Europe. Its members range from distinguished and highly qualified specialists to enthusiastic students. Its Corporate members are those men and women of high intellectual ability whose knowledge, skills and experience fit them for the task of leading the technological developments of the country, including those of its Armed Forces.

Joining the Institution provides unrivalled advantages for graduate engineers of all ages. Indeed, the benefits are as numerous as one wishes to make them. The greater one's involvement and the more one contributes the greater the rewards.

Keeping up to date

Technology is advancing at such a rate that it is impossible to keep pace with every new development and difficult even in specialized areas. Although basic theory will never change, much of the application knowledge gained on undergraduate courses will be out of date by the time most graduates are half way through their careers.

In its Learned Society role, the Institution organizes many hundreds of meetings and international conferences each year. It provides the opportunity for members to keep up to date in areas of rapidly changing technology and to meet with other engineers from both the public and the private sectors. With over 50 professional groups covering all aspects of electrical engineering from radiocommunication systems to control techniques and applications, the Institution's programme of meetings provides an ideal opportunity to keep fully up to date.

Career Development

Membership of the IEE also provides an effective way of acquiring and improving management skills. The complexities of modern technology require electrical engineers to work increasingly as part of multi-disciplinary teams. Through its continuing education courses and distance learning material the Institution enables its members to develop those additional skills essential to career development—an important consideration, particularly if considering a second career ashore.

The IEE also offers a full range of activities for younger members aged 30 and under, giving an opportunity for complete participation in Institution activities, including committee service, experience in public speaking and in the preparation of papers.

Serving the Community

One of the main aims of the Institution, as laid down in its Royal Charter, is to serve the community. To this end, the IEE issues standards and guidelines for the safe application of electrical technology; it advises government and other agencies on matters of concern or relevance to the profession, and identifies areas in which national and international policies and standards should be formulated. Through its Schools Education and Liaison Service it encourages young people to join the electrical engineering profession and, through its accreditation procedures and entry requirements, ensures that members of the profession are of the highest calibre.

For all these activities, the Institution relies upon the wealth of professional expertise and support offered by its members. Conversely, IEE membership and participation in Institution activities and initiatives offer members the opportunity to contribute to the future advancement of their chosen profession—what better reason can there be for joining?

For further information, contact the Membership Department, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL (telephone 071 240 1871).