



INCOSE UK Chapter – Rail Interest Group

Isambard Kingdom Brunel: Genius or Great Systems Engineer?

40, Melton Street, Euston, London, NW1 2EE

1700H for 1730H, Wednesday 6th June 2007

Although conceived as a tribute to Isambard Kingdom Brunel, this illustrated talk by Associate Professor Felix Schmid, also deals with some of the achievements of his father, Marc Brunel. It was originally prepared for the bicentenary of Isambard's birth but has been modified since to include new information received.

Marc and Isambard Brunel, both French trained ingénieurs, made major contributions to 19th century Britain and its infrastructure. Felix will review the fascinating background to the family's establishment in England and the historical context of a period when huge projects were undertaken in Britain, often at breathtaking speed and regardless of cost, in both financial and human terms. He will dwell on the Thames Tunnel project in which both father and son were deeply involved and which shaped their futures. Felix will then focus on Isambard's achievements, from the Great Western Railway to the prefabricated Renikoi hospital. Although the perspective adopted is essentially historical, he will also discuss the technical aspects of the projects, highlighting the systems engineering issues where appropriate. However, he makes no promises about the prominence of the 'V' process in his talk.

The presentation will last approximately 1 hour, with an opportunity for discussion afterwards.

Felix Schmid is associate professor in railway systems engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Birmingham and manages the MSc programme in Railway Systems Engineering and Integration.

The meeting is being hosted by Network Rail, at their headquarters in Euston, London. Non-members are welcome and there is no charge for attendance but places must be booked in advance as the venue is restricted. To book, obtain directions or for any other questions, please contact the RIG Chair, Bruce Elliott (bruce.elliott@atkinsglobal.com) or +44 (0)7970 694043.

The International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) is an international professional society for systems engineers whose mission is to foster the definition, understanding, and practice of world-class systems engineering in industry, academia, and government. INCOSE was formed in 1992 to develop, nurture, and enhance the interdisciplinary approach and means to enable the realization of successful systems. Since then, INCOSE has grown dramatically. Today there are over 5,000 member systems engineers, 50 chartered chapters worldwide, and more than 40 Corporate Advisory Board members from government, industry, and academia.

The INCOSE UK Rail Interest Group has been formed:

- *To provide a forum for those interested in Systems Engineering in rail to network in a less formal environment, to exchange good practice and to provide mutual support in an area which can require some sustained perseverance;*
- *To promote, improve and share the practice of Systems Engineering within the rail industry;*
- *To foster connections with other professional bodies within rail and thereby promote cross fertilisation of knowledge and experience across sectors and community disciplines; and*
- *To promote awareness of INCOSE UK and encourage membership within the rail industry.*

For further information, see <http://www.incose.org.uk/rig.htm>.