



## **INFORMATION RELEASE ES20150618**

### **SIGMA TECH COURSE OUTLINE ENGINEERING SUCCESS**

**DATE:** 18/6/2015

**TO:** All Training Organisations

#### **Course Outline - Engineering Success**

##### **Introducing the Course**

Few would disagree that engineers and technicians are well educated. Just surviving the selection processes to qualify for a place at a university is a major achievement, and then you have years of hard work and significant amounts of personal sacrifice ahead.

So why is it that you endure a long university course and then start work with an insecure feeling in exactly what you have been employed to do? Why is it that the job application process seems foreign, when we are well trained in the science of engineering? Is it because an important part of our learning has been left out of the university course?

This "thing" that we refer to as being left out (or at least undervalued in comparison with scientific learning streams) is what we call "professional practice". It's critically important to the way we work and the levels of success that we achieve. Some engineers understand it well from their early years and seem to excel with natural talent, and some will learn it with experience on the job. And it's often true that your level of success will depend on how quickly and how well you develop in this competency.

So what is professional practice? Think of it as the tools that you use to apply your scientific knowledge to the job. Therefore, ignoring professional practice as an important area of learning is like teaching somebody how to change an engine in a car, but leaving out the explanation of how to use the hand tools required to undo the bolts.

We leave university with a head full of great information that we will eventually use to form a career. Then we start work and have to develop our own process on how to apply it. If we are successful, we rise through the ranks as we become more capable.

So how do we shortcut this on the job development into the smallest timeframe possible? Can professional practice be taught to enable us to add more value more quickly?

The answer is yes, and this is the intention of this course. We will work through the basics of what comprises professional practice, and package it into what recruiters and employers are looking for, and what you need to progress quickly as an engineer.

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## **The course overview:**

### **Session 1 (2 hours)**

1. Introductions and overview of professional practice (class interactive session)
2. Recount advice from a high achiever on what he looks for in successful employees
3. The fundamental building blocks of professional practice and core tools
4. Case studies where this advice was applied

### **Session 2 (2 hours)**

5. How the basics of professional practice are integrated to the recruitment process
6. How to use these learnings to get jobs and promotions
7. Further tools to success in engineering
8. Next steps and areas of further development

## **Outcomes of the Professional Practice Overview Course**

This course has been developed from the fundamentals of what recruiters and employers look for. It has been structured to provide an appreciation of what professional practice is, and will enable you to understand some of the commonly used tools that successful engineers use. The process is to introduce the tools and then work through case studies on how they have been applied to successful projects.

The aim is to provide you with a process to create your own development plan for achieving the competencies required for you to reach your goals in the shortest possible time, whether they be to get a job, or excel and be recognised in your current role.

A four hour course will not lead to a mastery of the subject, but it will provide the basis for you to take your development in this area to the next level. And as will be described in one case study, it only takes some well crafted advice at the right time to make a world of difference to your career.

## **The Facilitator**

The course is facilitated by a mechanical engineer, not a recruiter. The facilitator has worked in engineering for more than 25 years, and has been employed as a development engineer, design engineer, manager, and department director within the car and truck OEM and supplier network, in both engineering and quality.

The core knowledge required to facilitate this course results from long experience in recruiting and coaching engineers, and a detailed knowledge of the competencies of high achievers. The course has been developed to explain the code job seekers need to understand, the processes employers use to select applicants, and how to get through the filters used by the recruitment companies to get yourself in the room with the actual employer.

We then progress to the competencies and tools displayed by high achievers in being successful, and package them for you as a course take away.

The process is well proven, the result of many years of development, and is designed to enable you to understand the concepts sufficiently to define and develop your own approach to achieving goals that you may currently consider as out of reach.

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