



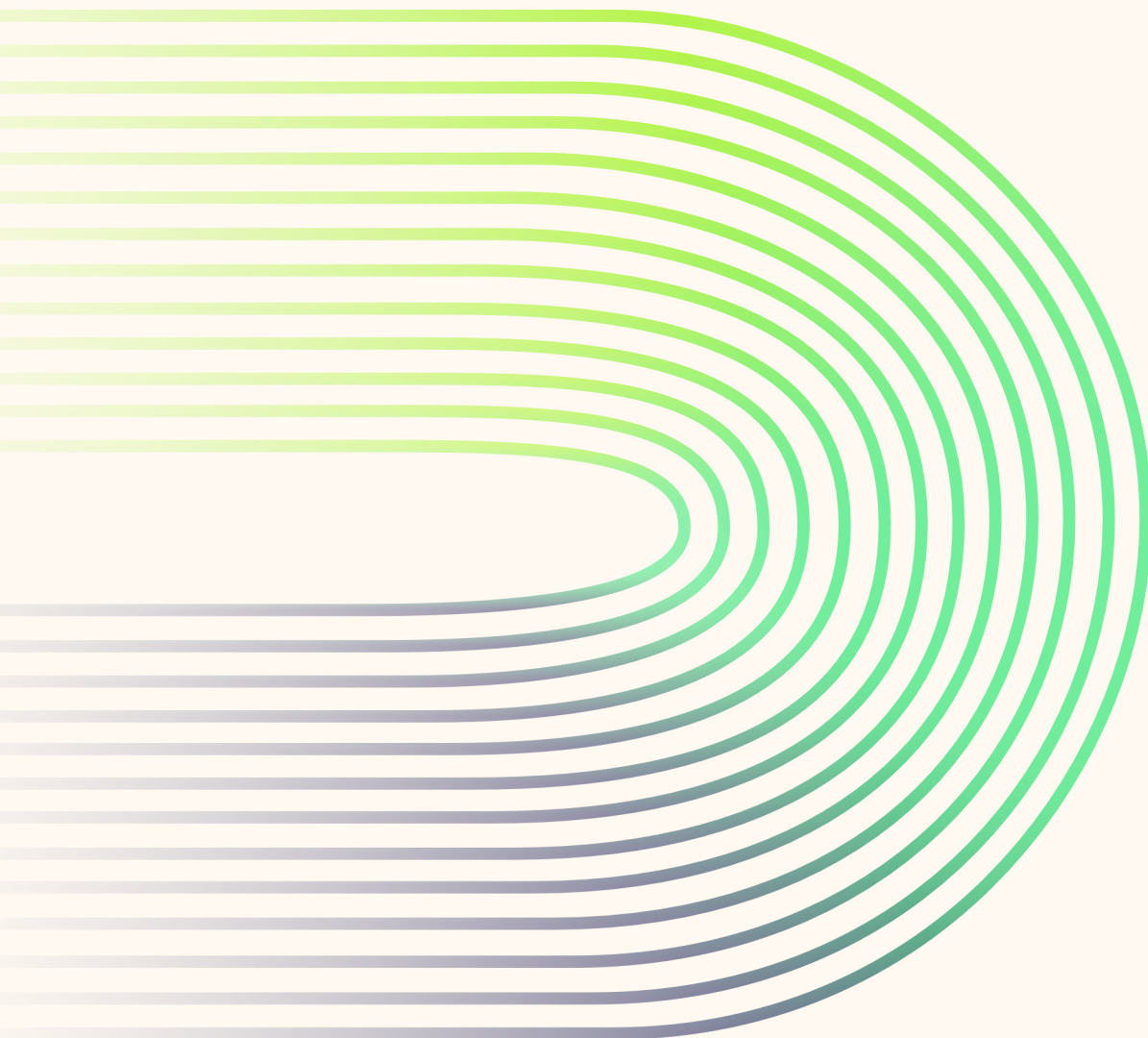
# Call for Papers

## Annual Systems Engineering Conference 2026

*Purposeful Transformation*

24-25 November 2026

Telford International Centre



## About the Event

The Annual Systems Engineering Conference (ASEC) is the UK's premier Systems Engineering event, attracting a wide range of industry professionals, international presenters and practitioners, which provides a distinguished platform for networking, learning and sharing ideas.

The Institute for Systems Engineering (formerly known as INCOSE UK) hosted its first ASEC in 2010, now in its 17th year, the two-day conference has developed to include technical presentations on contemporary Systems Engineering theory and practice, tutorials run by leading Systems Engineering Practitioners, an exhibition of Systems Engineering organisations presenting their products and services.

The theme for ASEC 2026 is **'Purposeful Transformation'** within which we intend to explore the following sub-themes:

- **Digitalisation**
- **Systems Thinking**
- **An Enterprise Approach**
- **AI and Automation**

This document outlines how to submit proposals for ASEC 2026 as well as key deadlines and event structure information.

The most up to date conference information can be found on the [ASEC 2026 website](#). You can also keep up to date with the latest conference news and announcements by following the conference hashtag on LinkedIn **#ASEC2026UK**.

**ASEC 2026 will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2026, at the Telford International Centre, Telford.**

# Programme Structure

- 2 inspirational keynote speakers (M’Pherson Lecture on day one and the Arnold Lecture on day two).
- 2 tutorials.
- 12 peer-reviewed papers presented by the authors.
- A Professional Development workshop, as part of the ‘Careers Stream’
- The Early Careers Forum workshop, as part of the ‘Careers Stream’
- Dedicated Advanced Papers
- Advanced Topic Panel - Short Presentation followed by Speaker Panel
- Early Careers Topic Panel - Short Presentations followed by Speaker Panel
- Inclusive By Design: No Users Left Behind
- Invited Content
- A UKAB run session
- 4 Panel Sessions in total
- The conference dinner which will provide a unique opportunity to meet and network with other delegates.
- An after dinner speaker.
- On Day 2, the exhibition space will open prior to the Arnold Keynote - Ruby exhibitors will each give a 15-minute promotional presentation during this period.



# Paper Submissions

IfSE are inviting individuals and organisations to submit papers to be delivered at ASEC 2026.

The theme for this year's ASEC is '*Purposeful Transformation*'. Within this, the following sub themes will be explored:

- Digitalisation
- Systems Thinking
- An Enterprise Approach
- AI and Automation

We are open to proposals that do not necessarily fall within the theme, and are keen to accept papers based around a variety of interesting applications in Systems Engineering. All papers must be able to fill a **30-minute presentation** time slot and should include a five-minute window to allow presenters to answer any questions from the audience.

As well as making all papers and presentations available on our website, we will be producing a printed copy of the Proceedings available for purchase. All papers must therefore use the **IfSE Paper Template** to ensure uniformity, which will be provided to all accepted authors.



# Paper Submissions

## Submission Review Process

ASEC 2026 will use the IfSE review process, which will be executed as follows:

### Call

The call for submissions is issued.

### Abstracts

Authors respond by submitting a short 250-300 abstract. These will be assessed for content, how it fits the theme of ASEC 2026 and the general applicability and interest to the Systems Engineering community. Authors will be asked to classify their submission according to a set of broad Systems Engineering categories. **Successful authors will be invited to submit a six-page paper** for full review.

### Papers

Authors will be issued with an **official IfSE template** to format their papers. **Each six-page submission** will then have three reviewers allocated to it, each of whom will be an expert in the subject area of the paper. Each reviewer will have extensive experience and will hold CEng or CSEP level expertise in their specialist field. All papers will be double blind-reviewed and each reviewer will be asked to produce a score from 0 to 10. Reviewers will produce a set of comments that can be used for feedback to the authors.

### Review

Following the review, all scores will be averaged and a final decision will be made by the Events Committee; with ultimate responsibility lying with the IfSE Technical Director. All authors will receive the feedback comments and a final decision: the paper will be accepted, the paper will be held for a reserve paper, or the paper will be declined. All submissions and feedback will be handled by the IfSE Secretariat.

**All accepted papers and reserve papers will be published in the ASEC 2026 Proceedings which will be available to purchase at ASEC 2026 and subsequently on the IfSE website.**

# Paper Submissions

## Submission Review Process

### Abstract

The abstract should be between 250 and 300 words and should provide an overview of the scope and purpose of the paper and touch on any key conclusions.

### Author Details

As an absolute minimum, authors must supply:

- **Name:** The names of all the authors.
- **Affiliation:** The organisation or organisations that the author(s) are representing.
- **Email address:** An email address for each author. Authors may also include other details, such as addresses, phone numbers, etc (if they wish).

## Categorisation

### Topic

A number of broad categories have been identified by existing Groups: MBSE, Architecture, Enterprise SE, Agile SE, Stem, Service Systems, Education, Project Management, Capability, Sports and Human Factors. If your topic does not appear here, you may add to the list. Please use the suggestions where possible. Authors may identify up to three topics.

### Application

There are two levels, which are:

- **Research and innovation:** New ideas that have been carried out as part of a research and innovation project
- **Practice:** Examples of Systems Engineering practice applied in real project, showing real results, that may demonstrate novel practice or recognised good practice

This additional categorisation information is required in order to ensure that we can allocate reviewers with the appropriate competence to review your submissions.

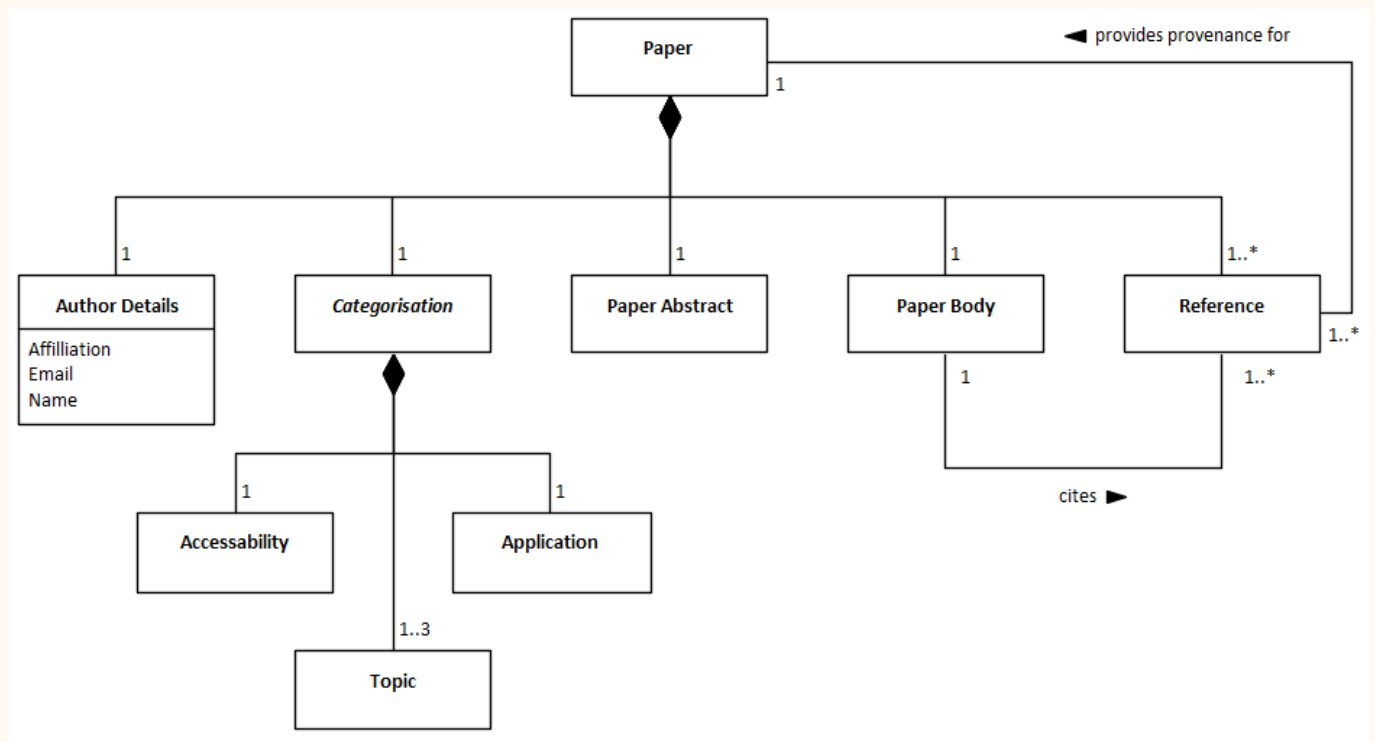
# Paper Submissions

## Anatomy of a Good Paper

In order to ensure that the review process is as fair as possible, authors should bear in mind the following guide on what makes a good paper. This will be used by the reviewers as part of their assessment.

The diagram shows a structure recommendation for papers; the structure will be used by the reviewers as part of their assessment. All authors will be issued within an **official IfSE paper template** upon acceptance of abstracts to format their papers with.

A [Paper Writing Master Class Video with Prof. Jon Holt](#) can be found on the IfSE YouTube channel.



# Paper Submissions

## Paper Body

### Introduction

This section will describe the ‘why’ of the paper. It should introduce the subject matter and provide a justification of its relevance. This section also gives the authors the opportunity to demonstrate that they have sufficient background knowledge to justify the paper, including any relevant references to existing work. This section must also explicitly define the basic aims of the paper.

### Approach

This section describes the basic approach that was taken to carry out the work. It may describe any life cycles, processes, procedures, techniques, tools, etc that were followed.

### Result

Any results from the work should be stated here. This may take the form of a formal results table, observation, emergent properties, lessons learned etc.

### Conclusion

The conclusion should provide a summary of the salient points of the paper and present any conclusions that were reached. This section must explicitly address the main aims that were identified in the introduction - remember ‘Introduction + Conclusions = Paper’. This section may also identify any follow-up or future work resulting from the paper.

This structure is recommended as it will be used by the reviewers as part of their assessment. Please be aware that all authors will be expected to format their paper according to the **IfSE paper template**; this is to ensure that the paper can be included in the published ASEC 2026 Proceedings. All papers must be submitted as MS Word files.

**If you have any technical queries regarding your submission, please contact Technical Director, Prof. Michael Henshaw: [technical-director@ifse.org.uk](mailto:technical-director@ifse.org.uk)**

# Paper Submission Deadline

## Deadlines and Other Information

**13<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** The call for papers/presentations is issued.

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Submission of abstracts - Abstracts should be between 250 and 300 words outlining your presentation topic and main points. A shortlist of presentations will be selected based on the abstracts received. Please remember to assess your proposal against the criteria in the review process guidelines. Successful authors will be invited to submit a six-page paper for review by the judging panel.

**W/C 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026:** Invitation to submit papers - Abstracts that IfSE judge to be the best of the submissions will be notified and asked to submit a six-page paper. Authors will be issued with an official IfSE paper template to format their paper.

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2026:** Submission deadline for six-page papers.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026:** Paper review process complete—Authors will be issued with the reviewers' comments and successful authors will be invited to produce a final paper and asked to submit a biography and head shot to be included in the ASEC 2026 proceedings.

**17<sup>th</sup> August 2026:** Deadline for submission of final six-page papers, author's biographies and head shots for the Proceedings.

**W/C 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026:** Upload codes will be issued for presenters to upload their presentations.

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2026:** Deadline for uploading presentations.

**Please be aware that authors should book for the conference via the ASEC 2026 booking system; one author from each paper will be entitled to discounted ASEC attendance.**

**Authors will be expected to format their papers according to the IfSE papers template and style guide to ensure the papers can be published in the ASEC 2026 Proceedings publication.**

For any queries on technical content please email the Technical Director, Prof. Jon Holt: [technical-director@incoseuk.org](mailto:technical-director@incoseuk.org)

# Awards

## The Founders Award for Best Paper by a New Author Award

This award is named in honour of our IfSE Founders. Presenting authors who have not written or presented at a previous IfSE conference will be in with a chance of winning a £200 prize.

### Best Paper

The best paper is awarded based on the reviewer scores for each submission. The paper with the highest reviewer scores will win the prize, which will be awarded at the event dinner. In the event of a tie, the final decision will be made by the IfSE Technical Director.

### Best Presentation

Delegates are asked to vote on the best presentation during the conference, with prizes being awarded after the conference to the top three (first, second and third place).



# Additional Information

## Contact Information

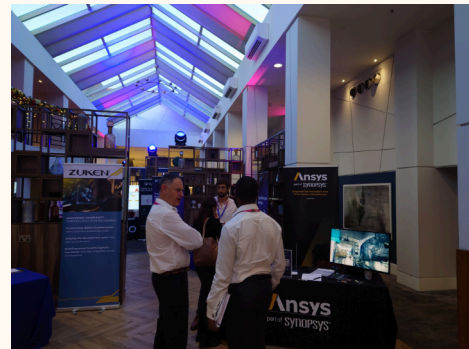
All submissions should be emailed to the IfSE Secretariat on [events@ifse.org.uk](mailto:events@ifse.org.uk)

For any queries on technical content, please email Technical Director, Prof. Michael Henshaw on [technical-director@ifse.org.uk](mailto:technical-director@ifse.org.uk)

## Additional Information

All IfSE accepted and reserve papers will be printed and published in the ASEC 2026 Proceedings. Copies of the past ASEC Proceedings can be purchased via the IfSE Online Store.

PDF copies of past ASEC papers, posters and presentations are available to members on the IfSE website.



Published by IfSE

February 2026