



1965 - 2005

IHIE @ 40 Celebrating Excellence

Dave Lawrence IEng FIHIE

Company Director, TCT Consultancy Ltd



Dave runs his own consultancy, specialising in the configuration of traffic signal controllers. This is a niche specialism that provides an expertise essential to the safety of road users.

Dave started as an electrical and electronics apprentice with Plessey Controls Ltd and as time went on he realised that his aptitude for and interest in electronics was outweighed by his interest and skill in the configuration of traffic signal controllers. Subsequently he joined Microsense Systems Ltd and over ten years became heavily involved in software development as well as configuration. At this stage Dave reviewed his professional career and saw that his competencies were developed to the point where he could branch out on his own, offering a tailor-made configuration service in the traffic signal control area.

He has built up his track record and his client base, and has moved into design work and training as well. He also performs factory/site acceptance testing, and builds tests equipment for customers.

Dave decided to go for I Eng with the encouragement of his manager at Microsense, Chris Hext, an IHIE stalwart. Achieving registration gives him "authority" and recognition by the profession of his depth of experience and expertise. He "particularly enjoyed the task of writing a paper" for professional review, an exercise which makes you think rigorously about what you actually do and how. He finds IHIE good for networking, and mentoring, and thought it right that Microsense funded his work for professional review, and IHIE membership. Dave now speaks at the IHIE Traffic Signal Control course in Nottingham and enjoys "giving something back" to an industry which has given him real opportunities and an interesting career.

Dave believes IHIE provides interesting and useful courses, and that the Branch is active locally for people on the ground, and is good at helping people to maintain their CPD record.

He believes that his company "offers a faster and better service" but identifies the new Sector 8 scheme as a further hurdle to overcome. Although he believes it will "weed out inefficient practitioners" it will involve him in extra work and costs.

An Engineer who has seen a need, backed himself to meet it and created a flourishing business delivering a critical component of traffic control, Dave exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit in engineering.