



# Welcome to the First SDE Newsletter

We're excited to introduce the very first edition of the CIBSE Society of Digital Engineering (SDE) quarterly newsletter.

This new initiative aims to keep our community connected and informed, sharing highlights of our recent activities alongside valuable insights from experts across the built environment and digital engineering space.

## JOIN THE CIBSE SDE COMMUNITY

There's an SDE membership grade for everyone – whether you're starting out, an experienced professional, or simply interested in digital engineering. **Explore the options** to find the level that's right for you and become part of a growing community.

### 01.

Words from Michael Bartyzel as he steps down after two impactful years as Chair.

### 02.

A welcome message from Andrew Jolly as he steps into the role of Chair.

### 03.

A recap of our first technical event of the year, held in Manchester in March.

### 04.

Expert insight from Andy Krebs on the recent ISO19650 Review and what it means for the industry.

### 05.

Details of our upcoming event and how you can get involved.



## Reflections from Previous Chair, **Michael Bartyzel**



As I come to the end of my two years as Chair of the CIBSE Society of Digital Engineering (SDE), I've been reflecting on what we've achieved together and it's something I feel incredibly proud of.

First and foremost, we reached a milestone that many of us have been working towards for years: the launch of full SDE membership. What began as a loose collective of professionals navigating shared challenges around BIM, standards, and digital delivery has now evolved into a recognised professional community within CIBSE. That achievement belongs to everyone involved and it's a testament to collaboration, shared knowledge, and a willingness to support one another across the industry.

Another key focus during my time as Chair was ensuring that SDE represented the whole industry and not just London. We've taken meaningful steps to engage regions beyond the capital, including delivering events such as our recent Manchester event, where we heard directly from talented professionals. Listening, learning, and bringing those voices into the wider conversation has been incredibly important.

We've also seen significant growth in the SDE Awards. What started as an idea to better recognise the achievements within our community has grown into a flagship event. This past year, with our first standalone awards ceremony and record engagement, felt like a real turning point.

Seeing the industry come together to celebrate innovation and excellence has been a real highlight, particularly through new categories such as the public vote. For the Digital Change Maker award, individuals first nominated colleagues, after which we shortlisted finalists. The winner was then decided entirely by a public vote. This approach created a much higher level of engagement and gave the wider community a direct voice in recognising outstanding contributions.

Beyond the scale and success of the awards themselves, last year also marked a significant step forward in recognising digital engineering on a global stage. Our winners reflected the international reach of SDE, with Athiya Junaid, based in Abu Dhabi, receiving the Up and Coming Digital Champion award, and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) of the Hong Kong SAR Government recognised both for Best Use of Technology in the Built Environment and as our overall Digital Champion - achieving the highest score across all categories.



Seeing organisations and individuals from across the globe recognised through the SDE Awards highlights the growing influence and relevance of our community.

It demonstrates that the challenges we face and the innovations we develop are shared internationally. By celebrating these achievements, we're not only recognising excellence, but also setting benchmarks that inspire and shape the future of digital engineering worldwide.

Alongside this, we've built consistency in how we engage with the industry, committing to regular quarterly events and exploring key themes such as AI. These have helped spark important conversations and keep us connected to the fast pace of change in digital engineering.

Of course, there is always more to do. If I have one reflection, it's that we could have gone further in influencing industry standards - particularly around areas like coordination and tolerances, where clearer guidance is still needed. That remains an important opportunity for the future.

I step down feeling incredibly optimistic. We've laid strong foundations, built a passionate community, and created real momentum. I'm grateful to have played a part in this journey and I'll continue to support SDE in the years ahead.

[Read more about the 2025 award winners here.](#)





## A New Chapter: Incoming Chair, **Andrew Jolly**



Taking on the role of Chair of the CIBSE Society of Digital Engineering is both an honour and an exciting opportunity, especially following such a strong period of progress.

The past two years have created a solid foundation and my focus now is on building further momentum. This is not about changing direction, but about strengthening what we have started and expanding our impact across the industry.

A key priority will be growing our membership. The launch of the SDE pathway has opened new doors for digital engineering professionals, many of whom are only now realising that professional recognition and chartership are within reach. This is something I'm particularly passionate about, having recently gone through that journey myself.

I'm proud to have been awarded Engineering Chartership by the Engineering Council UK, alongside being accepted as a Fellow of CIBSE. This marks a significant personal milestone, but it also represents something much bigger for our discipline. I achieved chartership through the experience route rather than a traditional academic pathway, which I think is an important message for our industry. It demonstrates that digital engineering professionals are not operating on the edge of engineering but are central to modern engineering practice.

The work we do in information management, digital delivery, and data-led decision making directly influences how projects are designed, delivered, and operated. Engineering today includes digital leadership, and it is encouraging to see this increasingly recognised by our professional institutions.

The work SDE has done to develop clear pathways for professional membership and chartership is a critical part of that progress. It is helping formalise recognition for digital engineering and providing a route for others to follow. For those working in digital engineering who are unsure whether chartership is possible, it absolutely is. The journey may look different, but it is achievable, and I would strongly encourage others to explore it.

Alongside membership growth, another focus will be continuing to strengthen SDE as a recognised voice within the industry. Through our events, technical content, and this very newsletter, we have an opportunity to become a go-to source for insight, guidance, and leadership in digital engineering.



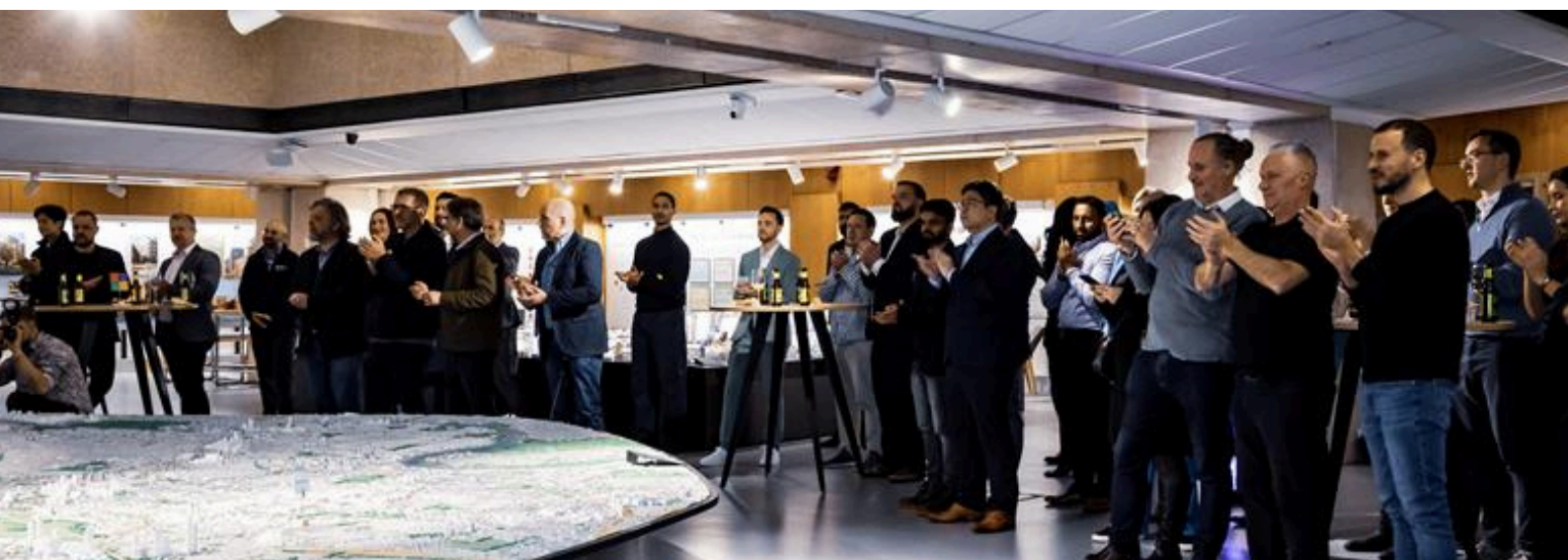
There is also more we can do to influence industry standards and best practice.

We have a wealth of expertise within our community, and the next step is to harness that knowledge into outputs that help shape how the industry works, both in the UK and internationally.

Looking ahead, I'm also keen to build on the success of the SDE Awards. Last year's first standalone event marked a major step forward, bringing the community together in a way we had not seen before. This year's awards, taking place in November, will build on that success and aim to be bigger, more impactful, and even more engaging. It is a key opportunity to continue recognising excellence across the industry while strengthening our global reach.

Finally, supporting the next generation remains a priority. From apprenticeships to STEM engagement, we have an important role to play in creating clear pathways into digital engineering and ensuring emerging talent can see a future within this profession.

Ultimately, this is a continuation of what has already been built, but with even greater ambition. There is a real opportunity ahead of us, and I am excited to work with the SDE community to build on this momentum and shape the future of digital engineering together.



# Event Recap: SDE × CIBSE North West – AI’s Impact Across the Built Environment

March marked a major milestone for the Society of Digital Engineering (SDE) as we hosted our first ever event in the North, in partnership with CIBSE North West.

Held at BDP’s Manchester studio and sponsored by Autodesk, the event welcomed a near full house and generated energetic discussion around the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities that come with adopting artificial intelligence across the built environment.



## How Autodesk Is Embedding AI Across the Project Lifecycle



Steve Butler’s presentation focused on how Autodesk is approaching AI not as a bolt-on innovation, but as a deeply embedded capability across its core platforms and the entire construction lifecycle.

He outlined Autodesk’s strategy of integrating AI Assistant directly into familiar tools, enabling users to benefit from automation and intelligence without dramatically changing how they work.

Steve explained that AI Assistant are now being rolled out across Autodesk’s flagship products, including Revit 2027, Civil 3D 2027 and AutoCAD 2027. These assistants are designed to support everyday tasks such as model navigation, data interrogation and repetitive workflows, allowing engineers and designers to work more efficiently while retaining control over technical decision-making. A key theme throughout was that AI should simplify work, not obscure it, and should enhance professional judgement rather than replace it.

A significant part of the talk focused on Autodesk’s development of what it calls the Model Context Protocol (MCP). Steve described MCP as a framework that allows Autodesk’s AI tools to connect with other AI platforms and cloud-based systems, creating a more open and extensible ecosystem. This approach enables users to interact with models using natural-language prompts and opens up opportunities for more advanced workflows as prompt-based interaction becomes increasingly embedded within Autodesk products.

# Event Recap: SDE × CIBSE North West – AI’s Impact Across the Built Environment

By sitting across all project stages, Autodesk is able to draw on consistent data and provide AI-driven insights that remain connected as projects progress, rather than fragmenting across disconnected platforms.

Data was a recurring theme. Steve explained that Autodesk’s cloud platforms – including what is now known as Autodesk Forma – provide a rich, structured data environment that AI tools can reliably draw from. However, he was also clear that data quality remains critical: AI can only deliver value when the underlying information is accurate, well-structured and appropriately governed.

Steve’s examples resonated strongly with the audience, particularly in showing how AI can support better, faster decisions during the stages where the most value can be created. His overarching message was that AI is already here, already embedded in everyday tools, and already influencing outcomes – but its success depends on thoughtful implementation, good data, and a clear understanding of where human expertise remains essential.

## Legal, Risk and Responsibility: The Other Side of AI Adoption

Providing a vital counterbalance, [May Winfield](#) of [Buro Happold](#) brought a legal and risk-focused lens to the conversation, examining what AI adoption means from a contractual, ethical and regulatory perspective.

Her presentation resonated strongly with the audience, particularly given the rapidly evolving legal landscape and the increasing use of AI-generated outputs on live projects.

She also addressed confidentiality, copyright and intellectual property concerns, highlighting the legal uncertainty around ownership of AI-generated content and the risks associated with feeding sensitive client or project data into third-party tools. Attendees were encouraged to scrutinise terms and conditions carefully to ensure they understand how the AI tools are handling their data

Other critical topics included ethics, bias and GDPR compliance, particularly where AI systems may embed historical bias from training data or process personal information. May also touched on emerging standards and regulation – such as ISO 42001 and the forthcoming EU AI Act – noting that while regulation is still developing, organisations should not wait passively for clarity, but instead put governance, policy and training in place now.

Her overarching message was clear: AI should be embraced deliberately and responsibly, with clear internal policies, defined approval processes and an understanding of where risk sits contractually and operationally.



# ISO 19650 REVIEW

INSIGHTS FROM ANDREW KREBS



The ISO 19650 series, first published in 2018, is now undergoing a formal review as part of the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) standard lifecycle. Typically reviewed within a 5–10 year period, this process ensures that standards remain aligned with current industry practice and continue to support effective delivery across the built environment.

## Why the review is happening

Since its publication, ISO 19650 has played a central role in shaping how information is managed across construction and infrastructure projects. However, the industry has evolved significantly in that time. The adoption of digital workflows has matured, and the distinction in roles between Building Information Modelling (BIM) and broader information management practices has become more widely understood.

The review aims to reflect these changes. Rather than focusing on BIM as a concept, the revised standard is expected to place greater emphasis on information management as an enabling function – supporting project delivery through structured data, consistent processes, and improved collaboration.

## Key proposed changes

The most impactful change, under consultation, is to lay out clearly that any project seeking to alter an asset in any manner, or to create a new asset, requires a concerted information management consideration from the outset, relative to the size and complexity of the project. This has been left to inference in the 2018 edition of the ISO 19650 suite but is explicitly laid out in the proposal.

Alongside this, one of the most visible changes under consultation is the removal of explicit references to “BIM” terminology within the standard. While this has generated some debate, the intent is to broaden accessibility and clarity, making the standard more relevant to a wider range of stakeholders, not just those directly involved in modelling.

There is also a proposed realignment of terminology across key project documents. For example:

- The BIM Execution Plan (BEP) is proposed to become the Information Production Plan
- The Exchange Information Requirements (EIR) may become Information Production Requirements
- The Master Information Delivery Plan (MIDP) may become an Information Production Schedule

This shift aims to create a more consistent and intuitive naming structure, improving understanding of how these documents relate to one another within the information management process.

## Timeline and status

The review process is currently ongoing, with draft revisions having been issued for public consultation in 2026. Following the consultation period, all comments will be formally reviewed by the relevant ISO and BSI committees.

Importantly, no changes are yet confirmed. The existing 2018 version of ISO 19650 remains in force, and the final content of the revised standard will depend on the outcome of the consultation process. Current indications suggest publication may take place in 2027, although this timeline may evolve.

# ISO 19650 REVIEW

INSIGHTS FROM ANDREW KREBS



## Progress across the standard series

At Part 1 level, revisions have focused on clarifying principles and simplifying language, with a stronger emphasis on information management across the whole asset lifecycle and clearer links to related standards such as ISO 7817-1 Level of Information Need and ISO 29481-1 Building information models – Information delivery manual.

For Part 2, the key development is the proposed integration of delivery and operational processes into a single lifecycle approach. This includes clearer separation between information management and information production, alongside updated structures for strategies, plans, teams and outputs.

Part 3 is being repositioned as implementation guidance to support the revised Part 2, with draft updates expected for review from June 2026. Any remaining guidance gaps are expected to be addressed through the wider Information Management Initiative Framework, ahead of anticipated publication of the updated standards in 2027.

Next steps: public consultation feedback will be reviewed and resolved through international consensus, which will ultimately determine the final structure and content of the revised ISO 19650 series.

## What this means for the industry

At this stage, it is too early to define the long-term impact of the review. However, the direction of travel is clear: the standard is seeking to improve clarity, accessibility and interoperability, supporting better coordination across project teams.

For practitioners, the key message is to stay informed but measured. The proposed changes represent an evolution rather than a wholesale shift, and there will be time to adapt once the revised standard is finalised.

## Looking ahead

As the review progresses, the Society of Digital Engineering will continue to share updates and perspectives from across the industry. Given the breadth of opinion on the proposed changes, future contributions will include a range of expert viewpoints to support informed discussion.

For now, the focus remains on understanding the proposals, engaging with the consultation process where possible, and maintaining clarity on current requirements.

# Upcoming Event

June 18<sup>th</sup> 2026



## AI in Practice

### Join us



CIBSE  
91-94 Saffron Hill  
London EC1N 8QP



18<sup>th</sup> June 2026



Arrive from 5:30pm



Free tickets and  
complimentary food & drinks  
provided

[Reserve your free ticket](#)

Our upcoming SDE Technical Event will explore the real-world application of AI across the industry. Presenters will share their organisations' journeys with AI to date, discussing governance, adoption strategies, and their perspectives on the future of AI within the AEC sector.

The session will conclude with a panel discussion, giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the speakers.

The session will conclude with an interactive panel discussion, giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the speakers.

The panel will feature [Manny Purewal](#), Global AI Portfolio Manager at [AtkinRéalis](#). We are also pleased to have [Endra](#) sponsoring the event, with [Robert Metcalfe](#) delivering a short presentation before joining the panel.

Sponsored by:

 Endra

# Join SDE

Attend premier events, workshops, and conferences that bring you closer to the industry's cutting edge and offer invaluable learning and networking opportunities.

## RECOGNITION & ACCREDITATION

Strengthen and maintain your professional standing with CIBSE's internationally respected qualifications and Chartership pathways, showing your continued commitment to excellence.

## CAREER GROWTH & CPD

Gain access to accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) resources, training, and certifications that keep your skills sharp, and your expertise recognised globally.

## KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Stay informed with the latest industry research, technical guides, and best practice through our extensive library of resources and expert insights.

## GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Connect with a diverse community of professionals, share knowledge, and collaborate through our Societies, Groups, and Regions.

## Memberships

We offer memberships for individuals who are just beginning their digital engineering journey, want to stay connected, or have a general interest in the field without needing professional registration or full professional membership.

For those seeking formal professional recognition and the right to use SDE post-nominals, professional membership and Engineering Council registration are available through our corporate grades. Members also receive free digital access to all SDE and CIBSE publications, including newly released guidance as it becomes available. [Find out more here.](#)

<u>Student</u>	For current students on STEM-related programmes interested in digital engineering. Free to join.
<u>Affiliate</u>	For those new to the industry or interested in staying connected to the sector. Join through CIBSE Affiliate membership.
<u>Licentiate (LSDE)</u>	Ideal for technicians and EngTech level professionals, fast-track application also available.
<u>Associate (ASDE)</u>	For experienced engineers and technical leads, aligned with IEng level standards, fast-track application also available.
<u>Member (MSDE)</u>	Recognises experienced professionals working at or towards Chartered Engineer (CEng) level, fast-track application also available.
<u>Fellow (FSDE)</u>	For sector leaders making significant contributions to the digital engineering profession. Includes a peer-reviewed assessment process.

# Partner Membership

SDE Partner Membership gives organisations a powerful platform to collaborate with the Society of Digital Engineering, influence industry standards, and drive meaningful digital innovation across the built environment.

By partnering with SDE, organisations can elevate their visibility, strengthen professional networks, and contribute directly to shaping the future of digital engineering. [Find out more here.](#)

## Open to organisations in the UK and worldwide

Software developers, tech vendors, manufacturers, engineering and design practices, FM providers, specialist contractors, property companies, and anyone committed to advancing digital engineering.

## Work with SDE across technical, education, research, and standards initiatives

From one-off collaborations and event support to full strategic Partner Membership, we help organisations and the Society achieve shared goals and drive meaningful digital transformation across the built environment.

## Technical Event Sponsorship Package

*£500 per event - held quarterly*

What you receive:

- Your company name and logo featured on Eventbrite and across all event marketing materials on website and LinkedIn (pre- and post-event)
- Opportunity to speak at the event, positioning your organisation alongside industry leaders
- Dedicated space at the event for two standard pull-up banners
- You will be the only sponsor exhibiting alongside SDE

# Partner Membership

*£600 per year*

Position your organisation at the forefront of digital engineering by becoming an annual SDE partner.

What you receive:

## **Strategic Influence**

- Input into Steering Committee meetings, with invitations to attend where appropriate
- Opportunities to collaborate with industry leaders shaping the future of digital engineering
- Involvement across technical, education, research, and standards initiatives

## **Brand Visibility**

- Company name and logo featured on the SDE website
- Inclusion in quarterly newsletters distributed to our network
- Exposure across SDE communication channels

## **Thought Leadership Opportunities**

- Opportunities to contribute insights to newsletters and SDE platforms
- Showcase your expertise to a targeted, engaged audience

## **Event Benefits**

- Discounted sponsorship rates for all events, including the annual awards
- Guaranteed tickets for SDE events

## **Recognition & Resources**

- Use of the SDE logo on letterheads, business cards, email signatures, website, and marketing materials
- Monthly access to the CIBSE Journal

If you are interested in sponsoring technical events or the upcoming 2026 awards ceremony, please don't hesitate to **reach out**.

If you would like to hear more about becoming a partner member, there are a range of benefits available, including having your logo featured on our website and in our quarterly newsletters, visibility at technical events and the awards ceremony, discounted rates for sponsoring future events, opportunities to speak at events, and guaranteed tickets to attend. **Email us to find out more.**

# 2026 Award Sponsorship

The SDE Awards are our largest event of the year, held each November in London. Sponsorship opportunities for the 2026 Awards are now available, offering extensive brand exposure and targeted publicity to members of the CIBSE SDE community.

Position your organisation at the forefront of digital transformation in the built environment. As a sponsor, your brand will be showcased to a highly engaged audience of engineers, designers, developers, contractors, and industry decision-makers. If you are interested in sponsoring the upcoming 2026 awards ceremony, please don't hesitate **to reach out.**

## Main Sponsor Package

*Limited to five organisations*

Maximise your visibility and position your organisation as a key supporter of digital engineering excellence.

Package includes:

- Promotion across CIBSE and SDE digital platforms, including logo and company name on the event webpage, social media, and newsletters
- Recognition as a Main Sponsor across all promotional activity and during the awards presentation
- Inclusion in targeted email campaigns reaching thousands of industry professionals
- Social media exposure before, during, and after the event
- Opportunity to speak at the event
- Two guaranteed tickets, with the option to reserve additional tickets (subject to availability)
- Opportunity to display a standard pull-up banner and distribute branded collateral at the event
- Discount on an Individual Award Sponsorship

## Individual Award Sponsorship

Align your brand with excellence by sponsoring a specific award category.

Package includes:

- Company name and logo associated with a specific award category
- Company name engraved on the physical award trophy
- Inclusion in event marketing and communications related to your sponsored award (before and after the event)
- Recognition during the awards ceremony
- Opportunity to present the award on stage

