

Day in the Life of Andy Dunbar, Planning Engineer



What is your position/role at Systech?

My current position in Systech is the change notice scheduler working for one of the 3 International Consortium's on the construction of the Riyadh Metro in Saudi Arabia.

What is your typical day?

My typical day consists of analysing the baseline schedule looking for any changes requested by management. Analysing the delay events and reporting how much time a new change of scope will cost the team to implement the change notice.

What are the interesting aspects of your role?

I am also a part of the change notice team so I get to see how the quantity surveyors use my time analysis to calculate the cost of the change. I also enjoy the scheduling role in looking forward in time and projecting the future design and construction activities.

What are the challenges?

Working with a multinational consortium with several programmes can be a challenge. When impacting 1 programme all other programmes are affected in a different way. This could increase the cost if I haven't impacted each programme correctly and could result in a longer delay reported.

What training and support has Systech given you?

The training I have undergone has been Primavera P6 training. Most of the other training has been under the direction of the Dubai based Planning Director, writing chronologies and time impact analysis on several on the job training sessions in the last year.

What words of advice would you offer someone thinking of joining Systech?

Systech will take you through all of your training. Whether it is through university or online training. You will have all the time you need to improve yourself and career and many senior consultants are available to assist you in the training sessions.

What social activities have you been involved in?

The social activities are few on a fast track job and the long hours seem to prevent anything happening, but I have taken it upon me to be the Systech physical training instructor taking the team out for regular training sessions.

How has your career developed with Systech?

My career has taken off dramatically. Only last year I was in the finance sector based in the Dubai International Finance Centre and

now I am leading the change notice schedule. I will eventually move in to the senior planning roles, as the change notices hopefully will slowly decrease as the job progresses.

What is the culture like?

I meet many interesting nationalities on the Riyadh Metro and it seems that every continent has someone working here all with their own cultures which gives me a worldwide view of different personalities.

How has Systech helped you achieve your career goals?

I went from the finance sector into the construction sector which opens up a worldwide opportunity to travel to new construction projects and take an active part to the project deliverables and successful project completion.

What makes Systech different from the competition?

Working with Systech gives me the opportunity to gain experience on large projects and work alongside experienced senior management figures on a regular basis.

What has been your greatest achievement with Systech?

After my training I have been assisting the Planning Director in setting up training programmes for other trainee planners and I look forward to having the new trainees joining me on future projects where our scheduling skill can jointly develop. The company is very active in the training of staff.

Tell us about a project where you have learnt a key lesson?

I have worked on a project where there were several different languages used and it was often difficult to understand the translations and views of the nationalities. The most important lesson was that often it was easier to use sketches, drawings and schedules to overcome language difficulties.

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