

# Day in the Life of Craig Broomhead, Senior Quantity Surveyor at Systech



## What work do you do for Systech?

I am currently on a commission as Senior Quantity Surveyor for a large main contractor on a rail electrification project in the North West of England. The project is one of the first phases of the Northern Hub which will improve rail travel across the North of England.

## What is your typical day?

Construction activities were completed in early 2015 so I am working on the final account as part of a dedicated team looking to achieve a negotiated settlement. Part of my role is to produce reports and presentations for the area of work I'm responsible for. I am also currently working with a specialist subcontractor to resolve a number of account differences.

## What are the interesting aspects of your work?

With my experience mostly being on construction projects the

methodology in rail was completely different to anything I had worked on before. I enjoy being involved in new parts of the construction industry so having the opportunity to work on a rail project, and previous to this an off-shore wind farm, I have learnt a lot.

## What are the challenges?

Starting on a project in a new industry always has its own challenges, certainly when it comes to understanding new construction methods and terminology, but you quickly learn these new aspects. Also joining a project that is part way through can be a challenge as you need to get up to speed quickly. On my most recent commission a lot of the original construction staff had left the project so developing an understanding of the problems was more difficult due to the amount of knowledge that had been lost.

## What training and support has Systech given you?

I recently received support in completing and submitting my RICS APC and I will be taking part in mock interviews in preparation for the final assessment. I attend regular seminars in Manchester and log on to online webinars. Having access to highly qualified and experienced colleagues helps when I need support or advice on a particular project or if I need a second opinion on an issue.

## What words of advice would you offer someone thinking of working for Systech?

Be open minded, ambitious and willing to learn. You get the opportunity to work on different types of projects all over the world. Systech also opens the door to working on claims and disputes which I had not previously experienced.

# Day in the Life Profile

*Craig Broomhead, Senior Quantity Surveyor*



## What social activities have you been involved in?

The northern region holds regular team meetings and briefings which allows us to meet colleagues followed by a drink in the city centre. We also attend regular regional breakfast seminars.

## What is the culture like?

The culture is quite refreshing, senior management are easily accessible and are keen to hear new thoughts and ideas which is good in an industry that can sometimes seem stuck in its ways. Ultimately we all have the same goal which is to provide our clients with the service they expect and deserve.

## How has working for Systech helped you achieve your career goals?

Whilst I have worked on many different types of building construction I wanted to gain further experience in different parts of the industry. Since working

with Systech I have been involved in an off-shore wind farm and, presently, a rail project. I have also developed experience in compiling and assessing claims.

## What makes working for Systech different from the competition?

Systech offers the opportunity to work on a diverse range of international projects. There is also an encouragement to develop your career by offering support in completing the RICS APC and also further qualifications.

## What has been your greatest achievement working for Systech?

Successfully completing my first project in a consultancy role was a great achievement for me. Having only ever worked directly for main contractors previously a change in direction to a consultancy was a new challenge and one that I enjoy.

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

I've learnt that communication is key. Regardless of the information or the point you are trying to put across, whether it be regarding a variation, a claim or a simple subcontractor payment certificate people want clear and concise information. Information that is ambiguous or unclear can lead to unnecessary disagreements. In addition, having now worked in a claims environment you understand the importance of good record keeping, even if it is something as simple as a daily shift report from a site supervisor, good records are essential evidence for additional entitlements and can help to avoid protracted disputes.

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