

# Day in the Life of Paul Singh, Quantity Surveyor



## What is your position/role at Systech?

I am a Quantity Surveyor with Systech and on my current commission I have full commercial control on a very large project for a leading retail plc as well as being the go-to-guy for general contractual and commercial advice.

## What is your typical day?

The only thing 'typical' about my day is the 15 minutes I spend each morning writing a list of things to do. From then on, it varies significantly. The project on which I am working is a hands-on 'old school' quantity surveying role covering such tasks as cost plans, interim applications, sub-contractor/client meetings, variations and payments. I get to travel, as the client has sites all around the UK, and I am in charge of managing my own workload.

## What are the interesting aspects of your role?

The most interesting aspect is that feeling when you receive the copy of the contract signed by both parties and all the effort in preparing the documents and speaking with the parties seems worthwhile. I also enjoy being the 'commercial guy', helping the client with varied range of issues.

## What are the challenges?

The tight deadlines and the intensive (but rewarding) workload.

## What training and support has Systech given you?

When I started Systech they got my APC up and running and funded my MSc in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution at King's College, London. This is one of the most prestigious qualifications you can get in the industry.

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

Systech will give you the opportunity to become deeply involved with a project with lots of client contact. 'In at the deep end' (in a good way), however, support and advice is always available from senior management. Making yourself useful to the client is a good strategy which helps expand the role and get involved in a wide range of tasks.

## What makes Systech different from the competition?

It has to be passing my Masters whilst progressing my career to the level I am at now. Systech gave me the opportunity to do this and they not only paid for it but also supported

me in doing it. This opportunity has rewarded me with a Commendation by the Judging Panel in the 2014 SCL Hudson Prize Competition

## What is the culture like?

I like to compare Systech to the Italian language. It is only spoken in two countries however you will always meet an Italian anywhere you go.

## How has your career developed with Systech?

I went from being an Assistant QS on Heathrow Airport Terminal 2 and after two years progressed to Project Quantity Surveyor. My role now is more like a Commercial Manager.

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

The projects on which I have worked have had chains and chains of emails between various parties. One valuable lesson I have learnt as a result of this is that to avoid problems and disputes, pick up the phone and talk.

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