

Keynote Speakers

9:00 am (Monday, July 24) – Welcome Address

Professor Nicholas O'Regan, Associate Dean for Research
Ray McDowell, Associate Dean for Planning and Resources
Patricia Voaden, Head of the Department of Business and Management
 University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, United Kingdom

9:30 am – 10:15 am (Monday, July 24) – Opening Keynote I



Chris Ditton, C Eng, MI Mech E
 Director of Operations, OSTE-UK
 Olympus Surgical Technologies Europe
 Cardiff, United Kingdom

Overcoming the Challenges to Operational Success

Mr. Ditton is an experienced, MBA educated General Manager with over 20 years of senior management experience across a number of blue chip organizations. He has expertise in Change Management with successful working partnerships with key stakeholders up to Board level, and a proven track record of developing and delivering complex cross-business unit, cross-functional change/improvement programmes. Mr. Ditton has held a series of senior positions in operations, engineering and procurement and have a strong track record of delivering required results and ensuring that internal issues are addressed and resolved.

His current responsibilities are in production, production planning, purchasing, maintenance & process development engineering at OSTE UK. Previous experience are works manager, head of operations, programme manager, consulting principal, with 35 years experience across a number of blue chip organizations, predominantly in the metals sector. His academic education: BSc (Hons) Mechanical Engineering at University of Nottingham, MBA at Warwick Business School.

10:15 am – 11:00 am (Monday, July 24) – Opening Keynote II



Professor Lukumon O. Oyedele
 Director of Bristol Enterprise, Research and Innovation Centre (BERIC)
 University of the West of England (UWE)
 Bristol, United Kingdom

Professor Oyedele is currently the Chair Professor and Director of Bristol Enterprise, Research and Innovation Centre (BERIC) at the University of West of England Bristol, United Kingdom. BERIC is a multidisciplinary University Centre established to increase research funding and connect the university to businesses within the region, nationally and internationally, through innovation and enterprise. Concurrently, Professor Oyedele also holds the title of Chair Professor of Technological/Digital Enterprise and Project Management at the same University.

Preceding this, he was the Head of Division of Project Management and Sustainability Division at Queen's University Belfast – QUB. At Queen's University, he was also the founding Head of Construction and Project Management Department. In this role, he established both postgraduate masters and PhD programmes in Project Management and led the professional accreditation of the programmes with RICS, CIOB and ICE. Before moving into academic, Professor Oyedele was the CEO and Managing Director of Lahn Development (UK) Ltd. and prior to this he was a Project Director at a multinational company – Sagem S.A.

With research interests in Digital Technologies (i.e. BIM – Building Information Modelling, Big Data Analytics, IoT - Internet of Things, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality – VR/AR) and Project Management, Professor Oyedele's research has been funded by various UK funding bodies to the tune of £8.3 million. Some of the funded R&D projects include (i) £2 million grant from Innovate UK to develop a big data analytics platform for simulating and optimising whole-life delivery process of mega projects; (ii) £1.5 million from EPSRC and Innovate UK for a waste recovery information tool for the circular economy; and (iii) £700,000 from Technology Strategy Board on Smart Cities Information Modelling for Urban Resilience. He has also secured enterprise/industry-related income in excess of £3 million. In these projects, he has successfully developed and implemented digital innovation as Principal Investigator for large businesses in construction, aerospace, manufacturing, automotive, telecommunication, financial services and retail sectors.

Professor Oyedele has written more than 120 papers in peer-reviewed international journals and conferences. He is on the Editorial Board of five eminent Journals in his field. He has supervised eight PhD students and 75 Masters Theses to successful completion. In addition, he has also been a Visiting Professor to many universities in USA, Canada, China, India, Brunei, Malaysia and UAE. Professor Oyedele has also served on several advisory panels and committees of governments and multinational corporations in the UK and overseas in the areas of BIM, Big Data, Strategic Project Management, Digital Innovation, PPP/PFI Projects, Sustainability, Circular Economy and EU Public Procurement.

He has been an invited keynote speaker in several international conferences, seminars and workshops in UK, Ireland, Italy, USA, Canada, Singapore, Turkey, UAE, Vietnam, Thailand and China.

Beyond work and at a personal level, Professor Oyedele enjoys spending his time with his family, travelling, watching and playing football and lawn tennis. He is big fan of Rodger Federer in tennis and Jose Mourinho in football.

9:30 am – 10:15 am (Tuesday, July 25) - Keynote III



Jiju Antony, Ph.D., FIOM, FRSS, FCQI, FISSP, MBBLSS
 Professor of Quality Management
 Department of Business Management
 School of Social Sciences (formerly School of Management and Languages)
 Heriot Watt University
 Edinburgh, United Kingdom
 Editor of International Journal of Lean Six Sigma
 Associate Editor of TQM and Business Excellence
 Associate Editor of Quality in Education (ASQ)

Professor Jiju Antony is recognised worldwide as a leader in Lean Six Sigma methodology for achieving and sustaining process excellence. He is a Professor of Quality Management in the School of Social Sciences at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland. He founded the Centre for Research in Six Sigma and Process Excellence (CRISSE) in 2004, establishing the first research centre in Europe in the field of Six Sigma. He is a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society (UK), Fellow of the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI), Fellow of the Institute of Operations Management (FIOM), Fellow of the American Society of Quality (FASQ), and a Fellow of the Institute of the Six Sigma Professionals (ISSP). He has recently been elected to the International Academy of Quality. He is a Certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and has trained over 1200 people as Lean Six Sigma Yellow, Green and Black Belts from over 21 countries representing over 175 organisations in the last 10 years.

Professor Antony is currently coaching and mentoring over 20 Lean Six Sigma projects from various companies in the UK ranging from manufacturing, service to public sector organisations including the NHS, City Councils, NHS 24, Police Scotland, ACCESS, Business Stream, Scottish Water and University sectors including University of Strathclyde, University of Nottingham, University of Cork, Ireland and Purdue University, USA. .

He has a proven track record for conducting internationally leading research in the field of Quality Management and Lean Six Sigma. Professor Antony has authored over 300 journal, conference and white papers and 8 text books. He has published over 100 papers on Six Sigma and Lean Six Sigma topics and is considered to be one of the highest in the world for the number of Six Sigma publications. Two of his papers published in 2002 entitled (Critical Success Factors for the successful implementation of Six Sigma projects in organisations (over 600 google citations) and Key Ingredients for the effective implementation of Six Sigma program (over 600 google citations)) have the highest citations making them the most referred to papers in the world in the field of Six Sigma. He has an h-index of 56 according to Google Scholar.

He has been successful in generating over £12 million worth of research money from various research funding bodies in the UK and abroad. He is the founder of the International Conference on Six Sigma and is also the founder of the International Conference on Lean Six Sigma for Higher Education. He was the past Editor of the International Journal of Six Sigma and Competitive Advantage and is currently serving as the Editor of the International Journal of Lean Six Sigma, Associate Editor of the TQM and Business Excellence Journal (Europe's top ranked Quality Management Journal), and Associate Editor of Quality in Education (ASQ). He is serving on the Editorial Board of 10 international journals.

He has successfully supervised the Vice President of Innovation in Google and is currently supervising the Global Head of Process Improvement for World Bank, CEO of the Institute of Six Sigma Professionals, UK, Chief Superintendent of Police Scotland and Operations Director of Seafood Scotland for their PhD projects.

He has been a keynote speaker for a number of international conferences. Professor Antony has worked on a number of consultancy projects with several blue chip companies such as Rolls-Royce, Bosch, Siemens, Parker Pen, Siemens, Ford, Scottish Power, Tata Motors, Thales, Nokia, Philips, General Electric, NHS, Glasgow City Council, ACCESS, Scottish Water, University Sectors and a number of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. He has been appointed as the Strategic Advisor for Continuous Improvement within Police Scotland since 2015.

10:15 – 11:00 am (Tuesday, July 25) – Keynote IV



David McDermaid
 Business Development Manager
 Siemens Industry Sector
 Siemens Industry Software Limited
 Cornwall House
 Blythe Valley Business Park
 Solihull, B90 8AF
 UK

Dave McDermaid has worked within the PLM industry for 20 years and has been responsible for helping customers identify and realise the vision of Product Lifecycle Management – Working with companies such as BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, Dyson, JCB & Babcock, Dave has partnered with senior teams to develop high level roadmaps to deliver capabilities that change the paradigms of innovation, Product Development and Manufacturing Operations Management.

As part of the Siemens Digitalisation strategy, Dave is working with industry partners to develop future Industry 4.0 concepts that will revolutionise British Manufacturing.