

What is Engineering Management?

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Effective management of engineering and other technical functions is increasingly important to an organization's productivity and performance results. This is due in part to the evolution and growth of technologies, and the expanding use of a cross-functional team approach to planning and decision-making. The ability to lead and manage "knowledge workers" such as engineers, scientists, and other technical professionals requires a unique set of skills, education, and experience. Although engineering management (EM) as a profession and academic discipline has been around for many years, there are still misconceptions about the functions and competencies of an engineering manager; and the content/objectives of EM degree programs. This paper attempts to clarify these misconceptions and define the role and value of the engineering manager in organizations.