IMechE Covid Task Force Meeting Summary No 2 26th June 2020

At the 26th June online briefing, the following topics were discussed:

1 Hong Kong IMechE Member AT described the factors which are thought to have contributed to HK's very low Covid death rate (only 4 deaths in Hong Kong based on WHO data). The biggest factor is considered to be preparedness due to previous major experience with SARS which included the application of a range of engineering infection control measures. From this actions included: Urgent action during the first 14 days of the pandemic, the use of a cocktail of drugs, good hospital ventilation, everyone wearing PPE including in the street and on public transport – which contrasts with the UK's self- choice approach, massive increase in public transport cleaning. Also heat sensing (temperature screening) is widely used and acts as a deterrent.

2 Aerospace Division described the various factors involved in this complex industry including multiple international bodies such as EASA, IATA etc, passenger control, and aircraft cleaning. New areas for investigation are the use of antimicrobial materials, and an automatic cleaning lavatory using UV (Boeing). Not all airports or airlines are using heat sensing. China and Hong Kong use heat sensing widely. Although this may not always detect Covid accurately, it identifies sick people and acts as a detterent.

3 Management Division discussed the new challenges facing managers in the "working from home era". Although productivity seems to have actually risen during home working, there are issues of checking effectiveness and helping those having difficulties. Servant leadership management and Scrum alliance were suggested as new techniques for managers to adopt.
The issue of training young engineers and apprentices during the lockdown was also discussed.

The task force also discussed the group's proposed Terms of Reference, TOR, and the Title, Purpose and Scope, TPS , documents which will be uploaded onto the website once finalised.