

# Support Systems Engineer

Reviews field support requirements and recommends tool and test equipment. Establishes sustainment support requirements for systems and equipment. Develops logistics support systems. Performs maintenance and maintainability demonstrations for customers. Reviews handbooks, manuals, training, etc. for technical accuracy and adequacy. Plans and contributes to proposal efforts. Designs, develops, and implements testing methods and equipment. Plans and arranges the labor, schedules, and equipment required for testing and evaluating standard and special devices. Applies human performance principles, methodologies, and technologies to the design of human-machine interfaces for systems and products. Develops and implements research methodologies and statistical analysis plans to test and evaluate developmental prototypes used in new products and processes. Interfaces with design engineers to establish system design, operating, and training requirements and to ensure optimized human-machine interfaces, safety, maintainability, testability and other design attributes that influence the sustainability of the system/product. Develops safety documents as required to support customer and test/operational range requirements. Performs audits of operational areas and reports effectiveness of system safety programs. Evaluates the interrelationship of system safety requirements and other aspects of concept design and development requirements to ensure a safe but cost-effective solution. Resolves technical problems and answers queries supporting customers and integrators. Maintains and updates records and tracking databases and alerts management to recurring problems and patterns of problems.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
	Support Systems Engineer I	Support Systems Engineer II	Support Systems Engineer III	Support Systems Engineer IV	Associate Principal Support Systems Engineer	Principal Support Systems Engineer	Sr. Principal Support Systems Engineer	Chief Engineer
Discretion/Latitude	Work is closely supervised. Follows specific, detailed instructions and/or guidance from more senior functional staff.	Works under general supervision. Follows established procedures. Work is reviewed for soundness of technical judgment, overall adequacy and accuracy.	Works under only general direction. Independently determines and develops approach to solutions. Work is reviewed upon completion for adequacy in meeting objectives.	Work is performed without appreciable direction. Exercises some latitude in determining technical objectives of assignment. Completed work is reviewed for desired results.	Work is performed without appreciable direction. Exercises considerable latitude in determining technical objectives of assignment. Completed work is reviewed from a relatively long-term perspective for desired results.	Works under consultative direction toward predetermined long-range goals and objectives. Determines and pursues courses of action necessary to obtain desired results. Completed work is reviewed from a relatively long- term perspective for desired results.	Works under consultative direction toward predetermined long-range goals and objectives. Assignments are often self-initiated. Determines and pursues courses of action necessary to obtain desired results. Work checked through consultation and agreement with others rather than by formal review of superior.	Often acts independently to uncover and resolve issues associated with the development and implementation of operational programs. Plans R&D programs and recommends technological application programs to accomplish long-range objectives. Work is checked only to the effectiveness of results obtained, and typically requires a long-term perspective.

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Knowledge, Skills, & Abilities	Limited use and/or application of basic technical principles, theories, and concepts to specific job assignments.	Frequent use and application of basic technical standards, principles, theories, concepts and techniques.	Complete understanding and wide application of technical principle, theories, and concepts in the field. General knowledge of other related disciplines.	Applies technical expertise, and has detailed knowledge of other related disciplines.	Applies extensive technical expertise, and has full knowledge of other related disciplines. Answers technical questions regarding products and services, and may take part in putting together proposals, configurations, and product offerings.	Applies advanced technical principles, theories, and concepts. Contributes to the development of new principles and concepts. Identifies, analyzes and develops new business opportunities. Answers unusually complex technical questions regarding products and services, and takes part in putting together proposals, configurations, and product offerings.	Applies advanced technical principles, theories, and concepts. Contributes to the development of new principles and concepts. Widely recognized for achievements, technical expertise and meritorious standing within professional field. Identifies, analyzes and develops new business opportunities. Establishes customer contacts, conducts research and analysis into their future plans and needs, assists with the development of their specifications, develops proposals, and delivers marketing presentations.	Exhibits an exceptional degree of ingenuity, creativity, and resourcefulness. Applies and/or develops highly advanced technologies, scientific principles, theories and concepts. Viewed as leading expert within the field. Establishes long-range marketing plans for the organization's products and services by identifying, analyzing and developing new business opportunities. Establishes customer contacts, develop proposals, and deliver marketing presentations. Maintains relationships with key decision makers.
Problem Solving	Develops solutions to routine technical problems of limited scope by following standardized practices and procedures.	Provides solutions to a variety of technical problems of moderate scope and complexity.	Provides technical solutions to a wide range of difficult problems. Solutions are imaginative, thorough, practicable, and consistent with organization objectives.	Develops technical solutions to complex problems that require the regular use of ingenuity and creativity.	Develops technical solutions to complex problems that require the regular use of ingenuity and creativity.	Works on unusually complex technical problems and provide solutions that are highly innovative and ingenious.	Works on unusually complex technical problems and provide solutions that are highly innovative and ingenious.	Develops information that extends knowledge in a given field. Information may form the basis of newly developed concepts, theories and products.

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<b>Impact</b>	Contributes to the completion of routine technical tasks. Failure to achieve results can normally be overcome without serious effect on schedules and programs.	Contributes to the completion of milestones associated with specific projects. Failure to achieve results and/or erroneous decisions or recommendations may cause delays in program schedules and may result in the allocation of additional resources.	Contributes to the completion of specific programs and projects. Failure to obtain results and/or erroneous decisions or recommendations would typically result in serious program delays and considerable expenditure of resources.	Plans and conducts assignments, generally involving larger and more important projects or more than one project. Erroneous decisions or recommendations would typically result in failure to achieve major contract objectives.	Regularly called upon to function in a project leadership role. Erroneous decisions or recommendations would typically result in failure to achieve major organization objectives.	Develops technological ideas and guides their development into a final product. Erroneous decisions or recommendations would typically result in failure to achieve critical project objectives. Leads the planning and implementation of large projects/ programs. Contributes to department goals and planning efforts.	Develops advanced technological ideas and guides their development into a final product. Erroneous decisions or recommendations would typically result in failure to achieve critical organizational objectives and affect the image of the organization's technological capability. Functions in a program leadership role. Plays a key role in implementing programs/projects and makes significant contributions to department goals and overall functional strategic planning efforts.	Designs research and develops highly advanced new applications resulting in new product/business opportunities for the company. Erroneous decisions or recommendations would have a long-term negative effect on organization's reputation and business posture. Leads development and implementation of key programs and/or processes for the organization.
<b>Liason</b>	Contacts are primarily with immediate supervisor, project leaders, and other professionals in the section or group.	Primarily internal company contacts. Infrequent inter-organizational and outside customer contacts on routine matters.	Frequent inter-organizational and outside customer contacts. Represents the organization in providing solutions to technical issues associated with specific projects.	Represents the organization as the technical contact on contracts and projects. Interacts with external personnel on technical matters often requiring coordination between organizations.	Represents the organization as the prime technical contact on contracts and projects. Interacts with senior external personnel on significant technical matters often requiring coordination between organizations.	Serves as organization spokesperson on projects and/or programs. Acts as advisor to management and customers on advanced technical research studies and applications.	Serves as organization spokesperson on advanced projects and/or programs. Acts as advisor to management and customers on advanced technical research studies and applications. Often instrumental in attracting and obtaining major new company business.	Serves as consultant to top management in long-range company planning concerning new or projected areas of technological research and advancements. Prime spokesperson on company's technical capabilities and future directions. Often instrumental in attracting and obtaining major new company business.

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Minimum Education and Experience	0-2+ years with BS in designated Engineering or related field.	2-5+ years with BS in designated Engineering or related field.	5-8+ years with BS in designated Engineering or related field.	8-10+ years with BS in designated Engineering or related field.	10-12+ years with BS in designated Engineering or related field. Employees usually have advanced degree in field of specialization.	12+ years with BS in designated Engineering or related field. Employees usually have advanced degree in field of specialization.	15+ years with BS in designated Engineering or related field. Employees usually have advanced degree in field of specialization.	20+ years of broad and extensive professional experience with BS in designated Engineering or related field. Employees usually have advanced degree in field of specialization.