

Techno-solutionism: a challenge for the systems approach!

A collaborative deep-dive on both the concept and a practical example – 2 hours

Techno-solutionism — We want the best of technology while keeping our demons in check!

As engineers, we are passionate about technology. However, some emphasize the risks associated with overconfidence and an underestimation of direct or indirect impacts, particularly regarding planetary boundaries and/or social foundations*. A systems approach is the appropriate mindset for identifying relevant criteria and attitudes, and two successful sessions during AFIS January Conference and IW 2026 convinced us to reiterate a similar one during EMEASEC to widen the audience and the gathered ideas. We will brainstorm the concept itself, then a practical “controversial solution” in Geo-Engineering, allowing us to derive both practical takeaways and possible actions to mitigate some of the current Systems Engineering weaknesses in front of such cases.

Who should join

Systems engineers, architects, and sustainability practitioners who have a position (who does not!?) about Technology usage in society and in our projects, and want to defend or challenge it.

What you'll do

- Collectively refine the concept of Techno-solutionism, and its related notions,
- Brainstorm the risks of the described controversial solution (easy to understand, no prior knowledge required) then on the strengths and weaknesses of Systems Engineering in the face of those concrete risks,
- List both the relevant practical attitudes in view of these weaknesses, and possible activities to be undertaken within the sustainability working group to mitigate them.

Agenda (2 hours)

- 10 min — Welcome, background and goals
- 20 min — Active session 1: Concepts definitions & associated perceptions
- 15 min — Presentation of the geo-engineering controversial solution
- 20 min — Active session 2: Gather the associated risks
- 20 min — Active session 3: Strengths & Weaknesses of SE in front of those risks
- 25 min — Active session 4: Attitudes to adopt, Actions to start
- 10 min — Wrap-up, next steps

What you'll leave with

Confirmation or revision of your perspective on technology and its uses. A set of practical attitudes for critical cases. Several possible future projects within the WG and, we hope, the desire to get involved in some of them!

Format: Alternating between interactive brainstorming (we'll use [Wooclap](#) or similar tool for easy real-time interaction, ideally with your smartphone or laptop) and small presentations. **Duration:** 2 hours. **Bring:** both your passion and systemic thinking.

Facilitator: Alain Dauron · INCOSE / AFIS Sustainability Working Group.

*: referring to Kate Raworth's famous "doughnut"