Hello,

A systems engineer works closely with a project manager on the requirements of a project. They will collaborate with other experts while delegating responsibility effectively, controlling for risk, aiming for quality, attending to design and integration, and advocating for an optimal lifecycle. Often a systems engineer will work autonomously to keep the project on schedule and simultaneously report to the project manager on their progress.

To empower a systems engineer, a manager should create an environment of alignment. With alignment they're assured that solving non-routine problems is a part of their job and the project has provided them with the infrastructure to tinker with solutions. However, a manager will sometimes need to push back on proposed solutions if they can't be integrated successfully within the project constraints. Furthermore, a solution that displays increased technical performance should also demonstrate improved operational performance; solutions that do can be possibly employed. Throughout a project, the manager should strive to align, where appropriate, a system engineer's idea of operational performance with their customer's metrics.

References

Project Management Institute. (2017). *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge*. Project Management Institute.

Siegel, N. G. (2019). *Engineering Project Management.* John Wiley & Sons Ltd.