



Has the Signalling Drought arrived once more in the UK?

Back in issue 113 of IRSE NEWS, Roger Ford commented within the News View feature on the situation regarding signalling contractors at that particular time. The future seemed positive, so long as safety, efficiency and delivery were the key drivers. Since April 2006, there have been many projects delivered in the UK, some successfully, others with issue.

Now, despite track and signalling renewals being so much in demand within the UK on various infrastructures, signalling contractors large and small are struggling to keep staff busy with a constant workload, despite many hours being spent, sometimes at the last minute, responding to tenders to obtain work, with a realisation of cost and timescales, resulting in the relevant job being put on hold.

Approval procedures, endless meetings and the difficulty in obtaining approved documentation in a timely manner, in order to start work on site appears to be a big problem with most projects. In addition, the provision of experienced resources by the infrastructure owners to manage the works can also be an issue!

The recent announcement regarding the changes to the track renewals contractors on **the heavy rail in the UK is also impacting on signalling contractor's workloads.** With further reorganisation and changes expected, will workloads dip further before getting any better? The signalling work is still out there and still requires to be undertaken.

Whilst the staff are stood down and waiting, how do they continue their own professional development without great cost. You are unable to obtain further categories of IRSE Licensing without being assessed actually doing the relevant work activity! There is also the danger of staff leaving to work in such places as Australia, or leaving the industry altogether. When will the industry finally get itself into gear to deliver and become balanced? Your comments regarding these issues and your opinions are most welcomed.

The IRSE NEWS team look forward to receiving your thoughts, comments and responses regarding the items within this issue. We are now also requiring new articles and separate high quality JPEG images and pictures in support of each article, for further editions of this magazine. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

The IRSE NEWS Team

IRSE NEWS is published monthly by the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE). The IRSE is not as a body responsible for the opinions expressed in IRSE NEWS.

© Copyright 2007, IRSE. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the permission in writing of the publisher. Copying of articles is not permitted except for personal and internal use. Multiple copying of the content of this publication without permission is always illegal.

Editor

Ian J Allison

31 Bainbridge Road, Loughborough, LE11 2LE.

Mobile: +44 (0) 7891 067350

e-mail: irsenews@btinternet.com

Assistant Editor

A J R Rowbotham

36 Burston Drive, Park Street, St Albans, Herts. AL2 2HP

e-mail: irsenews@aol.com

Contributions

Articles of a newsworthy or technical nature are always welcome for IRSE NEWS. Members should forward their contributions to one of the Editors shown above.

Advertising

For details of advertising rates and deadlines call

Christopher Bean at Ten Alps Publishing

Tel: +44 (0)20 7878 2415 Fax: +44 (0)20 7379 7118

e-mail: Chris.Bean@tenalpspublishing.com

For **RECRUITMENT ADS** contact Amalia:

e-mail: amalia.zafeiratou@tenalpspublishing.com

Advertisements are accepted on the basis that the

advertiser and agency (if any) warrant that the

advertisement contents are true and correct in all respects.

London Office

IRSE, 4th Floor, 1 Birdcage Walk,

Westminster, London, SW1H 9JJ, UK

Enquiries

MEMBERSHIP OR OF A GENERAL NATURE

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 1180 Fax: +44 (0)20 7808 1196

e-mail: hq@irse.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 1186 e-mail: training@irse.org

LICENSING

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 1190 e-mail: licensing@irse.org

Web Site

For up to date information about the Institution or its activities, or to download a membership application form, log on to the IRSE Web Site at: www.irse.org

Production

Institution of Railway Signal Engineers

Stuart Angill, Production Manager

Printing/Mailing

Fericon, Reading

In this Issue ...

	Page
GSM-R in the Netherlands Chiel Spaans	2
Dresden University of Technology (part 2) Uwe Lehne	6
The 2007 International Convention, Rotterdam A Guest's Perspective Susan Bridges	10
A Railway Journey of a Lifetime: Into Tibet by Train Charles Lung	11
The Movement of Hornsby Signal Box Noel Reed	12
Technical Tips No.5 : The uses of the Point Gauge Ian Allison	14
Interesting Signals No. 95 : Irish Repeaters Simon Lowe	15
Curiosity Corner	15
IRSE Matters Australian Mini-Convention — Tony Howker	16
M & NW Visit to Rugby	18
Preparing for the IRSE Examination — Peter Woodbridge	19
Feedback	23
Announcements	25
Recruitment	27