



NEWS VIEW

Where have all the Technician's Gone?

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With the down-turn in the global economy and the availability of credit for business greatly reduced over the last twelve months, many railway companies have suffered in the UK. Whilst some have only just survived with reductions in staff and other costs, many have gone into administration and stopped trading. Indeed the largest Infra-structure Owner in the UK has also announced planned redundancies in recent weeks.

Firstly, we would like to say thank you to the many people and organisations who had the foresight to start their own companies to service the requirements of the **railway industry when privatisation of the industry occurred since the 1990's**. In many cases, these companies gave others increased options regarding problem solving, **procurement and economic solutions to forward Britain's railways**. They also employed and trained many new people and introduced them to the industry at great expense!

Secondly, can the industry now afford to lose trained, experienced and licensed signalling and telecommunication technicians to the dole queue? When the railways **were privatised in the 1990's, many experienced and skilled staff were lost**. Many large railway companies in the UK have now either made redundancies or have put people at risk. With so many opportunities in the near future, why have Infrastructure Owners not put their houses in order by confirming their requirements earlier and letting contracts sooner? After all, as a result of losing experienced staff, long term costs will increase; will we be able to complete the required works to time!

Thirdly, we have made many comments over the last few months on this page and failed to get a response. Are we doing the right thing to raise these issues? Do you wish us to continue to voice topics that affect our industry and our living? We would like to hear from you if you are currently experiencing any of the above problems.

Finally, the next issue of the publication is our 150th issue, so please do send in your thoughts and comments about the Institution and this magazine, both good and bad. We wish to be your voice and mouthpiece of the world-wide S&T industry.

Do you want it too?

The IRSE NEWS Team

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