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Within the last few months, I have advised the Chief Executive that it is my intention to stand down as the Managing Editor of this magazine within the next two years. This timescale will allow the Institution to identify and select my successor. The reason why I have come to this decision is that my life is changing in a positive manner and I now need more time to spend with my family, whilst continuing to support and take part in IRSE activities and conventions.

Having taken over as the Editor in April 2004 (issue 93), the last twelve plus years have been a very important and enjoyable part of my life. It has been hard work on many occasions, however, this hard work has produced a positive change and the natural development of this magazine. The magazine is very much a team effort, from two editors and a production manager when I started, to the very much developed, informed and global team that we have today.

The development of this magazine has only been achieved with the support of the global membership and the signalling and telecommunications industry as a whole. I am pleased to play a part in gaining the trust of all involved, in order to provide interesting and topical articles, reports and photographs of the developing technology, processes and resources from around the world for the membership and industry to learn from.

Whilst the role of the Managing Editor has evolved over a number of years, performing it can be intense on a day to day basis, alongside a full time job and family life. The next person to undertake this role must be aware that it does and will take up your time to complete each issue within the strict timescales and in the correct manner.

So have you got what it takes to become the next Managing Editor? If you are interested, please contact me direct or the Chief Executive for an initial discussion.

The editorial team and I would like to wish season's greetings to the world-wide membership, and to the signalling and telecommunications industry. Here's to a successful 2017!

Ian J Allison, Managing Editor



Front Cover: The IRSE's 2016 convention to Beijing afforded delegates the opportunity to travel on China's high speed rail network. Here a train is waiting to depart Beijing South Station. Photo Francis How.

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