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For latest information about IRSE events, news and how to become a member, visit www.irse.org. We welcome all those who are interested or involved in the fields of railway control systems, communications, data management or systems engineering.

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In the May edition of IRSE NEWS Peter Symons (our President) identified various ways in which you can become more involved with the IRSE – your Professional Institution.

Throughout the world your Institution survives and thrives because of the incredibly valuable input from dedicated and unsung volunteers. They give their time to serve on committees, in Local Sections, on Council, supporting IRSE Licensing, professional engineer registrations, arranging events, producing papers and articles for publication or presentation, and of course, producing IRSE NEWS! We always need more support (volunteers), and if you are currently not actively involved in the IRSE, please think about what you could do to contribute.

One of the unique features of our industry is we have to keep older technologies running reliably and safely long past any originally forecast life expectancy. More challenging still, in many cases that old equipment has to work alongside and with the latest state-of-art technologies. Whilst we must rightly focus on the future like 'Big Data', and what new technologies and systems can offer, we must also not forget the fall-back when those fail. And today the rail industry around the world still depends upon systems running many diverse 'legacy' technologies, such as 300/600 baud modems, very old relays, 600Ω telecom DC and AC copper circuits (land-lines).

The IRSE's membership has a very wide age range and diverse skills profile. But younger engineers often don't get taught about older technologies, and conversely older engineers may sometimes struggle with understanding the very latest technologies. So here is a way that you might help (whether you count yourself as younger or older!). Why not consider writing a short item for IRSE NEWS about a specific technology or system (old or new)? It could be generic or specific, technical or largely non-technical, but base it on your experience and knowledge, and choose a topic that others will benefit from reading about.

And if writing articles is not your strength, you can still help simply by spreading the word about the IRSE and why it is worthwhile being a member – such as by putting up notices about events on your company notice boards, using your internal communication channels, and making use of social media.

Gary Simpson, Junior Vice President, IRSE



Front Cover: Against the magnificent backdrop of the Alps, members of the IRSE Swiss Section wait on the platform of Chigny Station as their special MBC train arrives. *Photo George Raymond.*

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

A Word with Peter Symons

2

Is RAMS all BULL for electromechanical equipment?

4

Wayne McDonald

Automation technology and its application in marshalling yards in China, Shi Weizhong

12

Research on signalling system interoperability for urban rail transit,

18

Sun Xiaoguang

IRSE Matters

22

News from the IRSE

22

Report on the IRSE's Annual General Meeting and Dinner

23

CPD Monitoring 2017... The results are in!

25

French Section: Technical Conference: The Internet of Things

27

Swiss Section: Spring Meeting and Annual General Meeting

30

Feedback

32

Past Lives: Kevin Hurley

33

Membership Matters

34