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It seems to be more and more difficult to hire the services of good quality testing staff these days in the UK. Whilst a number of the large signalling companies have introduced fast track training schemes and conversion courses, there never seems to be enough testing staff available at the right time with the right competencies to go around the various planned signalling schemes.

With the volume of signalling scheme renewals planned by many infrastructure companies around the world in the forthcoming years, the issue of having good quality testing staff available at the right time with the right competencies for the right price has to be addressed by the signalling and telecommunications industry now, or else the cost of the existing testing staff will naturally increase.

And it is not all about getting bums on seats and someone just to fill out testing forms! The up and coming generation of testing staff needs to understand the circuits they are testing and be able to undertake fault finding to a reasonable level in order to fulfil what is expected from them as testers, both functional and principles. Data testing is also a particular area where there are only so many testers with the experience of a particular type of system and/or manufacturer which is causing problems in the industry.

As an industry, we need to be acting now, so IRSE NEWS is particularly interested in suggestions and examples of how this can be achieved going forward in order to share as best practice. The IRSE NEWS looks forward to your feedback regarding this important issue.

And finally....

This magazine continues to progress and move forward as a result of the contributions from its members and the signalling and telecommunications industry world-wide. The editorial team around the world would welcome your contributions, feedback and pictures for our two hundredth issue, so please ensure you send your contributions to one of the editors by 05/04/14.

The Editor

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