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As the final planning takes place for the various signalling and telecommunications commissionings to be undertaken during the Christmas period around the world, the issue of resources yet again raises its head.

As an industry, what are we doing to retain the required skill sets and build upon them? Where are the new and younger engineers and managers? How do they gain the required knowledge and underpinning skills to be robust and confident with delivery and timescales? Whilst organisations have been created to look at this area of concern, there is very little output to the media to demonstrate the positive things that are being done so far. IRSE NEWS would like to assist in telling the world wide industry what is being done by your employer in your country!

Having worked in the industry for a number of years and having seen the feast and famine in the UK, the amount of engineering work to be undertaken within the UK in the near future alone, will not have sufficient resources to undertake and complete projects in a robust and controlled manner that this Institution has suggested to the industry.

Some years ago when I was looking at careers and further education with my eldest daughter, I spotted that in schools and colleges there were very few references to engineering, let alone railway or signalling and telecommunications engineering. So as an industry, should we try and target the school leavers, graduates, mature students and retiring staff from the Armed forces, in order to make them aware about careers within the railway industry, engineering in general and in particular, signalling and telecommunications?

I would like to see our Institution make available suitable material about our profession that could be converted into numerous languages and used to generally raise the awareness of the positive and rewarding nature of working within the signalling and telecommunications industry world wide. What do you think? Would you like to assist in helping the Institution achieve this? If so, please contact the Institution Headquarters.

Are you working this Christmas? If so, IRSE NEWS would be pleased to receive your articles and photographs (taken in a position of safety of course) of the engineering activities that you will have been undertaking. Perhaps your portrait picture (above 500 kB in size) could be used for a future front cover for IRSE NEWS?

The editorial team and myself would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to all around the world. Perhaps you may want to make a contribution to IRSE NEWS if you are off during the festive period and want something to do. We look forward to hearing from you. Enjoy!

The Editor

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