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The September issue of this magazine will be the last one that I shall be involved in. After 143 issues and thirteen and a half years, I shall be standing down as the Editor.

During that time we have seen this magazine go from strength to strength, expanding the number of issues per year and increasing the diversity of the content along with the number of editorial volunteers from around the world. This has afforded the magazine the increased opportunities to obtain or write the articles that make it such an interesting read and that are relevant to our industry, eleven times a year!

Whilst undertaking this role, I have been afforded many opportunities to meet new people, go new places and view and understand innovative technologies both within and outside of the world-wide signalling and telecommunications industry. I have very much appreciated this opportunity and the support I have been given from Council and the Industry itself. I have also observed the Institution itself flourish further around the world, opening further opportunities for signalling and telecommunications engineers and the associated industries.

This magazine remains in good hands with people who have a passion, who care and who want to obtain or write the articles to inform, educate and entertain the membership. But please be reminded, that this is your magazine for your Institution. How about making a contribution today?

I shall remain as an active Fellow of the Institution, both within the Midland and North Western Section and the Minor Railways Section, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2017 Convention in Dallas and Fort Worth at the end of September.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, friends, the editorial and production team and the membership for your loyal support over the years, and to remember Tony Rowbotham and Stuart Angill, who were great people to work with and from whom I learnt so much. Sadly missed but never forgotten.

Ian James Allison, Managing Editor



In recent years South Africa has invested heavily in its railway, as shown here at O R Tambo airport where a Gautrain train is leaving the station. Our lead article this month looks at the way in which technology mapping is being used to optimise investment.
Photo Gautrain.

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Technology Mapping for Train Control and Communication Systems, <i>Portia Xaba</i>	2
Technical feature analysis of the Chinese High-Speed Railway Train Control System (CTCS), <i>Tang Tao, Ning Bin, Liu Chaoying, Mo Zhisong and Li Kaicheng</i>	11
Electric token working using broadband, <i>Philip Wiltshire</i>	16
Dear 11-year old me, <i>Rang Lee</i>	19
IRSE Matters	20
News from the IRSE	20
Minor Railways Section: Technical Visit to the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways	21
The CPD map to success	24
Feedback	26
Past Lives, Gert Koppenberg	27
Past Lives, Buddhadev Dutta Chowdhury	29
Membership Matters	30