

Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE) Appoints Charles Page as President

The worldwide professional body for railway signalling and telecommunications and related professionals, the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE) has elected industry veteran Charles Page from Siemens Australia as its 92nd President.

Headquartered in London, IRSE spearheads international sections in global markets including Australasia, India, North America and Hong Kong.

Coming from four generations of rail experts, Charles started his career in 1979 at Westinghouse's factory in Chippenham (England). He has since worked in rail industries in the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia.

Charles has had a long association with IRSE; including winning the Byles and Calcutt Award for best paper by a younger member of the IRSE Australasian section in 1993. He has been the Chair of the Australasian section, served on the committee in various capacities for many years and joined the IRSE Council in 2005.

In his inaugural speech delivered under the banner of "*Inform, Discuss, Develop*", Charles noted that, "As railway markets transform, mature and get challenged, there is desire to develop the talent of local engineers and enable the best knowledge sharing platform. This also applies globally, as even the most mature markets are experiencing skills gaps and are engaging with the IRSE on initiatives such as promoting STEM in schools and universities.

"I am proud to take over the role of the President of the IRSE, an institution that I have had a long association with. IRSE aims to foster the professional development of members and already has fantastic resources with the presentations and papers presented.

There is a great need to make that knowledge more accessible to all members wherever they are based. Much work has already been done on this – for example, via the IRSE website, but more remains to be done.”

Charles’ appointment comes at a time when the IRSE is growing with new sections in China and the United Arab Emirates under development and it is important for Siemens to share their expertise and play an active role according to Max Eichhorn, Head of Siemens’ Mobility division for Australia and New Zealand.

“This is a proud moment for all of us at Siemens – especially in the mobility business. It’s great to see the first ever Siemens employee to hold the prestigious President’s role in a global body advocating progress in the rail industry. Charles is not just passionate about the rail industry, but has contributed tremendously to the collective growth of ideas and sharing of best practises globally. At a time when local economies are competing in global supply chains, Charles’ contribution makes him an integral part of IRSE and the rail industry,” said Max Eichhorn.

Through his long and illustrious career, Charles has designed and worked on benchmark technologies such as the Radio Electronic Token Block (RETB) system, Cab Secure Radio (CSR), Solid State Interlockings (SSI), WESTECT Automatic Train Protection (WESTECT ATP) and many other industry leading technologies. He has also been involved in the delivery many ‘Firsts’ such as the first deployment of the SIRIUS Communications Based Train Control (CBTC) in China and the first trial of the European Train Control System in Australia.

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