

NEWS VIEW 160

And now the Positive Approach

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Well, News View last month certainly stirred up some controversy! IRSE NEWS tries to put the views of the entire spectrum of the Membership, not just those of the IRSE Council, and there are widely differing views as to the state of the Industry, as can be seen from the responses we have had (see Feedback p24).

Clearly the IRSE itself is doing a tremendous job in offering aspiring engineers technical and professional development opportunities that enable those individuals to become 'excellent engineers' and keep established engineers on the top of their game and attractive to their current and future employers.

However, times are hard and many people are worried for their jobs and future security. I have people on a regular basis in the UK, people I have known for years, contacting me with their issues regarding work, about finding another job in S&T because theirs has been done away with, or even for advice when they have been offered work abroad. Whilst last month's News View may have come across as a negative and dismissive view of the UK rail industry, it was representative of one extreme of what we are facing in the UK.

On the other hand, a number of companies are still developing young and existing engineers. This is excellent for them and excellent for the industry - UK or Overseas.

Things are clearly difficult for many, but the IRSE is perfectly placed to provide the support and encouragement that our Membership needs in these turbulent times, and to provide the framework for growth in knowledge and competence that will be needed by existing and potential members as we see the upturn that will undoubtedly come.

I want to help the industry and those who work within it, as they have helped me over the years, and I am sure that everyone in our Institution would say the same

The Editor

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