

Editor's Letter

September, like January is a time of new beginnings; of rebirth, a fresh start. New school year, new jobs, the end of summer, time for a change.

It is still too early to say the pandemic is behind us, but it certainly seems that progress is being made gradually; we are all disappointed that IBC isn't taking place this month but it is encouraging the event is being billed as an in-person one in December instead.

Meanwhile it takes more than a global pandemic to slow the SCTE® down. We have been full steam ahead with our Spring Lecture, Summer Lecture, monthly Webinar Series, our Podcast Series and of course our quarterly *Broadband Journal*. We are busy preparing for our Autumn Lecture and AGM – our first in person in nearly 2 years – at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham and will be releasing full details shortly.

We welcomed a new member to the SCTE® last month – Next Gen Networks Institute in Kosovo who are more like training partners with the SCTE® and we will be working closely with them to help them achieve their training ambitions in the area. Besim Latifi, our Ambassador-At-Large tells us more about this new initiative on page 10.

This edition focuses on issues that will be close to home for many of us; ransomware features in our Long Read in this issue. It looks at the peculiar set of geo-political, economic and technical circumstances that have led to the rampant criminal activity you will have read about increasingly often this year; it seems as if there is one humiliation after another making headlines at present. *Broadband Journal* looks deeper at the causes behind its sudden increase, the long term impact, what's being done to mitigate ransomware and how you can avoid being a victim on page 14. The unfortunate reintroduction of roaming charges has also hit headlines lately as a consequence of Brexit and *Broadband* investigates the commercial and technical conditions behind this development on page 4.

Industry veteran Gerrit Boskaljon, Technical Director at Technetix recently retired and the SCTE® have paid fitting tribute to his substantial contribution to the sector with an interview on page 36, followed by the republication of one of his earlier papers from 1999 concerning return path combining.

We have welcomed a number of editorial pieces from our industry partners in this issue; Crystaline tell us what the full fibre roll out means for your business on page 40, Twoosk have

put together a helpful list of features and benefits associated with online shopping for technical equipment, Corning have unravelled the rollout deployment challenges facing altnets across the UK and offer up various solutions. Finally SCTE® Corporate Members NetInsight present a convincing argument on how 5G enables next level remote production on page 32.

This issue is also packed with technical articles and we are delighted to welcome Playbox, recently-joined SCTE® members who have provided a fascinating insight into our viewing habits, looking at the surge in streaming subscriptions, the advent of targeted advertising and where that leaves terrestrial television.

On another note, you may be surprised to learn that August heralded International Left Handers Day, World Lizard Day and Black Cat Appreciation Day, among other auspicious days ascribed to anything from chocolate to Alzheimers. It is notable however that there are more than a few days dedicated to technology.

Software Freedom Day (an educational initiative to promote access to computers and software worldwide), International Internet Day, International Computer Security Day and Inventors Day all take place within six weeks of each other, illustrating just how integral what we do in our industry is to the world around us.

We should feel proud that we are enabling the education of students, workers and entire industries, many still working from home 18 months on, and helping industries and economies alike grow and prosper. We should take heart that without the dedication of everyone involved in broadband and telecoms – that means you - the world would have struggled far more during the pandemic and its recovery from it would be infinitely slower.

Enjoy this edition of *Broadband Journal* and if you have any ideas you would like to discuss we would be delighted to hear from you.



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