The International Journal of Railway Technology (IJRT) is an international journal dedicated to research, development and application in the scope of railway systems. The aim of the Journal is to provide an international platform for researchers and experts to promote, disseminate and discuss the recent developments and advances in the field of railway technology. Furthermore, this publication aims to encourage interaction and collaboration between universities, research centers, railway operators and industry in order to identify problems, propose solutions and indicate directions for future research. The Journal publishes original papers that cover, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- **Rolling Stock**: Design, manufacture and maintenance; Modelling and simulation; High speed trains, light railways and freight capacity; Performance and optimisation; Aerodynamics and crosswind; Noise, vibration and comfort; Safety, security and reliability; Ergonomics and interior design.

- **Infrastructure**: Bridges, tunnels and transition zones; Track design, construction and maintenance; Interaction of vehicles with the infrastructure and the environment; Foundations; Track monitoring; Trackbeds: sleepers and ties; Geotechnical aspects: earthworks, embankments, stabilisation; Technologies for track defects detection.

- **Energy and Environment**: Re-use of kinetic energy; Energy sources and smart grids; Hybrid traction and power trains; Sustainable rail transport.

- **Signalling and Communication**: ERTMS - European Rail Traffic Management System; ITS - Information and Technology Systems.

- **Operations**: Traffic management; Interoperability; Intermodal solutions.

- **Strategies and Economics**: Standards and regulations; Capacity and cost; Track access charges; Future trends in railway engineering.
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The first paper in this issue of the International Journal of Railway Technology was originally presented at Railways 2014: The Second International Conference on Railway Technology: Research, Development and Maintenance, held in Ajaccio, Corsica, France from 8 to 11 April 2014. At Railways 2014, Gerald Trummer, of the Virtual Vehicle Research Center, Graz, Austria, was awarded the Young Researcher Best Paper Prize for the paper. Over seventy-two papers were eligible for this prize and the judging panel consisted of members of the Conference Editorial Board. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the board members who helped with the judging.

Professor João Pombo (left) presents Gerald Trummer, of the Virtual Vehicle Research Center, Graz, Austria, with the Young Researcher Best Paper Prize at Railways 2014

Railways 2016: The Third International Conference on Railway Technology: Research, Development and Maintenance will be held in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy from 5 to 8 April 2016.