

Professor David M Johnson PhD BSc DIC CEng FICE

David has a BSc in civil engineering from the University of Leeds and a PhD in mechanical engineering from Imperial College, London. He is Technical Director of DGauge Ltd, an SME working in railway engineering simulation. Following graduation, he joined British Rail in their R&D division at Derby where he worked on a variety of projects associated with the technological drive of BR at the time and which focussed on achieving higher speed train travel on conventional tracks. He was involved in the introduction of High Speed Trains and subsequently the upgrade and electrification of the East Coast Main Line. David has continued to work in railway R&D, in the UK and abroad, on a variety of projects. In 1989 he founded Laser Rail Ltd as an SME to develop the emerging technology of gauging (the analysis of clearance between trains and their environment) and in doing so, developed the measuring and analysis technology that remains in use today and which has enabled such technology as tilting trains and containerised freight to have access to a restrictive UK rail network. In 2007, David joined City University where, as part of its collaborative transport hub, he undertook PhD supervision and developed research into the use of Fibre Bragg Gratings in train current collecting pantographs and which now form the basis of the latest generation of award winning active 25kV pantographs. David remains actively involved in railway standards, both domestically and in Europe. He advises RSSB (the UK rail safety body) and sits on a variety of industry committees associated with his discipline. His present work with DGauge involves developing the next generation of train to infrastructure clearance analysis technology. David and his wife Marilyn have three sons and one daughter (one of which is an engineer), and live in Somerset.