

## Message from the CEO

**In my first weeks, I have been introduced to numerous aspects of ACRI and its role.**

I have seen ACRI research areas in discussion, with the Heavy Haul Working Group convening in Perth to review the current program and propose avenues for future research. Two of the topics raised were drone operations and the impacts of high-speed iron ore trains on infrastructure.

In meeting a range of ACRI research participants, I have noted not only the depth of expertise and enthusiasm for their work but also the value of industry participation and feedback throughout the research process. The impact of this collaboration was evident at the International Symposium on Dynamics of Vehicles on Roads and Tracks (IAVSD) at the Central Queensland University (CQU) in August.

This was the first time this event was held in Australia and ACRI was a conference sponsor. Hosted in Rockhampton by ACRI research participants the Centre for Railway Engineering, IAVSD's program featured several presentations on ACRI research, and the feedback received from industry and academia will clearly benefit the ongoing projects.

Connectivity between research and industry is the major focus of the Australian Research Council Training Centre for Advanced Technologies in Rail Track Infrastructure (ITTC-Rail). ACRI, represented on the advisory board, looks forward to aiding the University of Wollongong with the progress of this initiative.

ACRI's international connections have also been active. Facilitated discussions between CQU, ACRI and a visiting delegation from the Chinese Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS) with the assistance of the University of New South Wales and information exchange opportunities were explored with representatives of Italcertifer, the Italian compliance body with whom ACRI signed a memorandum of understanding last year.

I look forward to further engagement as both ACRI's current research and our forward program progress.

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November 2017