

Dears Readers

The year 2018 is ending. It has been particularly important for the editorial team of *Problemy Kolejnictwa* (Railway Reports), due to the effort made to publish our journal in two languages. We believe that this new formula will gain the readers' acceptance and will foster promoting current specialist knowledge to much wider circles of people interested in railway technology.

In 2018, Poland is celebrating the 100th anniversary of regaining independence. The beginnings of the Polish statehood were inextricably linked with the history of Polish railways, which during the first decade of independence were able to overcome enormous difficulties connected with the reconstruction of the railway network from war damage and its technical unification, and by 1939 reached a decent European level. The research of new technical solutions has been a prerequisite for the development of the railways. Therefore, already in 1923, Experimental Division of the Ministry of Railways was established and a few years later extensive research was carried out on railway superstructure. Without these studies, it would be impossible for the Polish State Railways to obtain such good results in the time of the Second Republic of Poland.

We hope that also at present, research and development conducted at the Railway Research Institute contribute to the development of railways in Poland.

*I wish you an interesting and inspiring read
Andrzej Massel, Ph.D. Eng., Editor-in-Chief*