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Miguel Ángel Sotelo

ITS Technologies Driving the Future of Industry

have just realized that this is the last message that I will address from this column as President of the IEEE ITS Society. After two years of work, I look back and see how our dear society has continued to grow and make progress. Honestly, I can-

I have had the privilege of leading a fantastic, energetic and vibrant society, something that has rejuvenated me. I can't describe how much I have learnt from all of you.

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not take any credit for that. I believe the level of strength and energy of our members is such that the result would have been very similar with any other person sitting at the President's chair. The thing is that this group is moving forward, launching new initiatives, sharing ideas and information, and starting joint research projects. This is what I see and feel every time we gather in our conferences and events. By the way, I don't know if you are aware of how much we have grown in the last years. Let me give you a quick example. In 2012, I was General Chair of the IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium, one of our flagship conferences. On that occasion, we had 350 registrations, a kind of new record by then. Today, the ITSC conference has reached 1.000 registrations very recently and the IV Symposium seems to be reaching a similar figure in the near future. That is simply amazing. Such a big gathering of talented and motivated professionals can only lead to an explosion of creativity and new ideas, and this is, I believe, what the society needs, more than any other thing. I feel proud of being part of this group.

Definitely, we are living fascinating times, with tons of technological and societal changes that shape our lives and our relations. ITS technologies are playing a key role in this game. Just think of self-driving cars, V2V technologies, traffic management, etc. As an example, we are witnessing the birth and growth of uncountable companies developing some kind of technology connected to autonomous driving. As a matter of fact, there are today thousands of engineers working at industry, doing jobs that did not exist ten years ago. Who knows what the future may hold for us in the next ten years. The only thing I know for sure is that we will be one of the actors driving such future. In the meantime, let me once more

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MITS.2019.2939034 Date of current version: 18 October 2019 remind you that the ITSS is constantly seeking support from their members. There are many different ways to contribute to the ITSS' activities and initiatives. If you are willing to volunteer, just let us know so that we can find the best fit for you.

In my last message as President of the IEEE ITS Society, I would like to welcome the new ITSS President, Wei-Bin Zhang, from UC Berkeley, whose term will start January 1, 2020. Apart from being an excellent and enthusiastic professional, Wei-Bin is a good friend and a good person. I have no doubt that the ITSS will continue to make progress under Wei-Bin's leadership. My best wishes to Wei-Bin Zhang and his team. Last but not least, I would like to thank all of you for these two fascinating years. I have had the privilege of leading a fantastic, energetic and vibrant society, something that has rejuvenated me. I can't describe how much I have learnt from all of you. Let me wish you the very best in your future ITS endeavors. For anything you might need, you know how to reach me.

Sincerely,

Miguel Ángel Sotelo President. IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society

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