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Foreword to the 2025 Spring Issue

Welcome to the first issue of the fourth volume of the Safety-Critical Systems eJournal, published by the Safety-Critical Systems Club (SCSC) with Publication Number SCSC-204. You may have noticed a couple of minor changes in this section of the journal.

- This is a foreword, and not an editorial as in previous volumes. Someone pointed out to me that an editorial should offer an opinion, whereas I am just providing an introduction to the papers in the issue…
- It is the foreword to the Spring issue; previous volumes have had Winter and Summer issues. The next issue of this volume will be the Autumn one.

We still need more reviewers; some have had to withdraw, and others have become very busy. To register as a reviewer, please go to https://scsc.uk/journal and click on "Register" at the top right of the page. You will be asked to state in what subjects you are most interested, so that you can be matched up with appropriate papers. When a new paper comes in, potential reviewers are sent an e-mail stating the paper's title and abstract, and inviting their review. A link is provided asking them to respond with whether or not they can review within the required timescale. If they can, they have typically two or three weeks in which to provide comments, so it is not an onerous task. Some people have said to me that they do not think themselves experienced enough to be a reviewer. Actually, those with less experience are valuable reviewers, because they can point out where there is a lack of clarity in a paper, or where previous knowledge of a subject has been assumed.

This issue contains three papers:

1. Keith Collyer and Wendy Owen provided "*Management of Change in an Ever-changing World*" in preparation for the eponymous workshop on Day 2 of the Safety-Critical Systems Symposium (SSS'25). There is a report on the workshop in the May 2025 edition of Safety Systems, the Safety-Critical Systems Club Newsletter.
2. D-RisQ Ltd, as represented by Colin O'Halloran, Paul Whittaker and Nick Tudor, address in the paper "*Robust AI Planning*" the problem of maintaining resilience in embedded real-time autonomous systems under changing circumstances.
3. Wendy Owen reports on some research undertaken in 2021—2022 on potential assurance approaches for fusion reactors and hybrid nuclear facilities in "*The Development of a Hybrid Nuclear Requirements Hierarchy (HNRH) and its Application to a Non-Specific Fusion Facility*".

My thanks go to the authors for contributing their papers, and also to the anonymous peer-reviewers (at least three per paper) for suggesting improvements. Apologies also to those reviewers who made some recommendations that were not taken up.

The new cover art for this year features an impression of a fusion reaction taking place in a tokamak, inspired by Wendy Owen's paper in this issue.

John Spriggs, SCSC Journal Editor
May 2025

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