

# Chief Executive Officer's Report for the Marine Surveying Academy

## Prepared for the International Institute of Marine Surveying Annual General Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### Overview

After strong growth in 2017, last year was rather muted by comparison, although the Marine Surveying Academy (MSA), a wholly owned subsidiary of IIMS, is profitable. The business slow down was largely due to a lack of Registered Marine Coatings Inspectors (RMCI) courses, which were budgeted but did not materialise.

In addition, the International Registered Marine Insulation Inspectors course and qualification remained largely dormant.

And the eCMID accreditation scheme successfully run on behalf of the International Marine Contractors Association for four years showed signs of slowing down – fewer people to train and lower numbers seeking accreditation as the scheme starts to reach maturity.

But as you will read shortly, the first two slow performing schemes are revving up strongly.

Much of the past six months have been taken up with strategical planning work. The proposed Marine Surveying Practitioner scheme, voted in favour by IIMS members at the last AGM, which will be run by MSA, is being prepared for launch.

Additionally, MSA has been asked to assess and potentially develop accreditation and certification schemes in the following areas:

- \* Certifying Authority coding examiners
- \* Rigs, riggers and rigging
- \* Hydrographic surveyors
- \* Towmasters and rig movers
- \* Electrical surveys

### Registered Marine Coatings Inspectors (RMCI) set for next stage of development

#### Registered Marine Coatings Inspectors

The standard and professional qualification for professional marine coatings inspectors



After a barren year in 2018, things are moving on nicely with the RMCI standard. Over 120+ have now achieved the qualification as a result of the week long course and formal examination. A full course has just been completed in Amsterdam.

The RMCI standard has been given added weight having been written into the recently published superyacht coatings ISO. RMCI coatings inspectors are now insisted on by many of the world's leading superyacht and refit yards. Support from the major paint companies and those behind the international recognised Pinmar standard further help to drive our efforts and credentials. Plans to take the course outside Europe for the first time are being intensified and we expect to be offering them later this year in USA and Australasia.

With extensive help from Akzo Nobel, a new lower tier, three-day course has been developed for general surveyors, paint managers and others keen to know about paint without needing to acquire in-depth specialist knowledge. This will be trialled later this year and then rolled out.

We are approaching the five-year anniversary of the RMCI standard. This has given us the opportunity to look at what reaccreditation will look like and allows us to review the course, its content and continuing relevance in an ever-shifting industry sector to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Web site: <http://rmciinspectors.com>

### International Registered Marine Insulation Inspectors qualification



## Becoming An IRMII Inspector

## Next Courses

After an absence of nearly 5 years due to the downturn in the industry, the IRMII qualification and standard is set for a revival. The process of reaccrediting those still in the sector is underway.

The course material is being rewritten and prepared for roll out later this year with three courses planned.

A new web site has been developed. Helen Boyd has taken up the role of lead tutor aided by Andy Blake, the original architect of the qualification.

Although essentially a programme for flowline pipe coatings, Helen and Andy are keen to develop the course content into other areas of sub-sea protection.

Web site: <http://irmii.co.uk>

## eCMID accreditation scheme



Accreditation for professional eCMID vessel inspectors

Telephone: +44 (0) 23 9238 5223



Recognised  
by the International Institute of Marine Surveying



A piece of work on behalf of the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) that has been valuable in terms of income to the Institute since its launch 4 years ago, it has also been instrumental in cleaning up the inspection of offshore assets, removing a number of people who were not competent to inspect. Nearly 600 have come forward for accreditation with over 450 achieving the standard.

Continuing Professional Development is now managed by a state-of-the-art App, developed by eDot.

IIMS and MSA meet regularly with the IMCA eCMID steering committee, who have awarded IIMS a new contract for 5 years to run the scheme effective from this month.

Web site: <http://www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com>

### Future strategy

It is now abundantly clear that MSA has developed a competency in creating accreditation frameworks and delivering successful schemes. Although this was never quite the original planned outcome when the business was launched, this is where MSA sits happiest now and is where the MSA Directors (Mike Schwarz, Hilary Excell and Paul Homer) see the future potential for the business. I have alluded to a number of other schemes earlier in this commentary, some of which we have thought to develop ourselves, others who have come to MSA seeking help and advice to run accreditation schemes. As the marine sector, like so many other industries, becomes more and more accountable for the actions of those who work in it, MSA is well placed to develop profitable new programmes going forward.

Hilary Excell, assisted by her colleagues Pu-Si Chung and Sharon Holland, will continue to nurture the existing schemes and qualifications, whilst looking to develop other programmes that are consistent with our aims in the maritime sector.

### Mike Schwarz

*Chief Executive Officer*

*9<sup>th</sup> May 2019*