

Minutes of a meeting of the Association’s IMCA Offshore Survey Committee, held on 10 January 2025 from 12:00 BST Online.

1 Competition law compliance policy

The IMCA Competition Law Compliance Policy, which had been circulated with the meeting agenda, was drawn to the attention of all present.

2 Welcome and apologies for absence

Roger welcomed the below committee to the meeting and read the competition law.

First	Last	Company	Position	Email	27/03/24	03/07/2024	02/10/24	10/01/25
Mike	Clark	Subsea 7	Chair	Mike.Clark@Subsea7.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dave	Matthews	TechnipFMC	Vice-Chair	dave.matthews@technipfmc.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gordon	Brown	Andrews		gordon.brown@andrewssurvey.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apol
John	Chatten	Fugro	SA representative	john.chatten@fugro.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ian	Ellis	3D at Depth		ian.ellis@3datdepth.com	N/A	Apol	Yes	Yes
Tristan	Fleury	Saipem		Tristan.Fleury@saipem.com	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scott	Howden	DOF ASA		Scott.Howden@dof.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul	Mcbride	Fugro		p.mcbride@fugro.com	Yes	Apol	Yes	Apol
Kate	McCubbin	Oceaneering International		kmccubbin@oceaneering.com	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julian	Nelson	Oceanscan	C&T representative	julian.nelson@oceanscan.co.uk	Apol	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arnold	Niessen	Boskalis		arnold.niessen@boskalis.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michiel	Van de Munt	Allseas		mvm@allseas.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Simon	Waterfield	Sonardyne		Simon.Waterfield@sonardyne.com	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Torsten	Marten	UTEC Survey, Inc.		torsten.marten@utecsurvey.com	Apol	Apol	Yes	Yes
Shepard	Smith	XOCEAN Ltd	NA Representative	shep.smith@xocean.com	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
Aaron	Bainbridge	Subsea7	APAC Representative	Aaron.Bainbridge@subsea7.com	Apol	Apol	Yes	Apol
Roger	Moore	IMCA	Technical Adviser	Roger.moore@imca-int.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional Attendees								
Jim	Cullen	IMCA	Technical Director	jim.cullen@imca-int.com		Yes	Apol	Apol

Formal apologies for absence had been received and recorded as per table.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 Approval of the minutes

The minutes were agreed and would be signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

3.2 Matters arising from minutes not covered by the agenda

Nothing was raised at the meeting.

4 Key Updates and Presentations

Mike Clark provided a summary of ongoing discussions with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero regarding offshore wind workers' visas. Support from developers such as EDF and Inchcape has been noted, but responses to industry advocacy remain limited.

Action: No Action but continue monitoring developments and prepare further advocacy as necessary.

5 Remote Operations and Survey Industry Trends

A comprehensive discussion on remote operations in the survey industry was held. Key highlights were:

- Increasing interest in remote operations, though uptake remains slow.
- Challenges include regulations, data residency issues, and client resistance.
- A potential document outlining considerations for remote operations was suggested.

Action: Roger Moore to explore existing materials and Mike Clark to propose initial outlines for a considerations document.

6 Membership Updates

IMCA reported an increase in membership, with 208 members now part of the Survey Division. Additional statistics can be made available on the IMCA portal and if anyone would like to see more specific data please send a request for same to Roger .

7 Regional Committees

South America: John Chatten reported limited recent activity but emphasized the need for awareness of subcommittee work, Roger due to present overview in Brazil 11th March.

Other Regions: No significant updates were noted from North America, APAC, or ME&I committees.

8 Divisional Committees

Julian updated the committee on the CMS accreditation tasks that C&T were working on and the 77% agreement survey that was received at the global summit. Feedback still needed from the lawyers, as some concern in terms of limiting the impact exposure to any competency claims retrospective from an accredited competency management system. Julian then discussed the new Inspection Competency working group plan with agreed Roles already in place, Sean is also on that WG and should be sharing some background from SS7-Julian to send out a reminder email.

Roger Moore reported no new updates on the Marine and Diving divisions this time around however the ROV division is nearing completion of the new R006 audit program, this will then see work alongside the C&T committee on ROV system inspector training.

ROV Statistics Survey: To be distributed shortly by communications department to ascertain numbers of ROV systems in operation today and how much Remote operations are underway, this includes Remote survey work and remote positioning.

9 New Assistant TA Announcement

Roger Moore announced the appointment of a new assistant Technical Adviser with a survey background, starting February 17, 2025. This role aims to improve support for committee operations.

10 Committee and Workgroup Updates from Dashboard

IMCA S003 (Multibeam Echosounders): Delayed; new deadline to be set due to it now being a major revision needed.

IMCA S011 (AUV Guidance): On hold until ROV Audit completion (end February 2025).

IMCA S013 (Deepwater Positioning): Draft completed and WG to send out for technical review, due back end of February 2025.

IMCA S017 (USBL Systems): Requires significant revision; timeline to be adjusted by workgroup.

IMCA S019 (Subsea Metrology Guidance): Final edits underway; technical review to commence in February and out for technical review by end March.

IMCA S025 and S026: Updates stalled; progress to resume with February deadlines.

Action: workgroup Leads to have updated dashboards by end of January 2025.

11 AOB & Proposed Topics for 2025

UXO Surveys: Potential collaboration with diving committees to extend what we offer in way of guidance.

GNSS Denial: Michiel van de Munt suggested that GNSS Denial should be considered as a topic for the committee. Michael Clark reminded committee that Technical Note(s) had been issued on the potential for loss of GNSS although it was suggested that these perhaps did not include any points related to associated loss of precise timing. It was discussed that Michiel should review the available IMCA documents, consider if further action was required to address his feedback and propose actions to the committee Chair.

Considerations for remote operations: could also be an Info note or a technical note to list a set of risks for all to address rather than a defined guidance.

Action: Ian Ellis to provide Roger with his company's remote operations requirement document that they had produced recently and Roger to liaise with other divisions to explore integration into current initiatives.

Application of Acoustic Centre in Kongsberg APOS: committee discussed following up with system manufacturer to seek technical feedback on the implementation of acoustic centre within the calibration process of HiPAP USBL systems and consider if further communication to members is required to advise on best practice in the interim.

12 Summary of action items

Action	Responsible	Target
IMCA S003 Multibeam echosounders Review	Gordon Brown	March
IMCA S011 AUV Guidance Review	Ian Ellis	ON HOLD
IMCA S013 Deepwater Positioning:	Michiel Van De Munt	End Q2
IMCA S017 Guidance on vessel USBL systems	Mike Clark	End Q2
IMCA S019- Guidance on Subsea Metrology-	Scott Howden	End Q2
IMCA S025- Guidelines for the shared use of sensors	Mike Clark	ON HOLD
LBL Array Planning and Network Adjustments	Mike Clark	ON HOLD
Heavy lift positioning support for shallow water operations	Mike Clark	ON HOLD
Remote operations in the survey industry	RM & Ian Ellis	03/2025
Kongsberg lessons learned letter	Torsten	Feb 2025

13 Date and location of next meetings

Proposed dates for meetings in 2025

- Wednesday 9th April 2025, 13:00- 16:00 (BST)
- Wednesday 2nd July 2025, 09:00-12:00 (BST)
- Wednesday 8th Oct 2025, 13:00-16:00 (BST)

Signed as a true record

Name

Date