



IMCA eCMID AVI

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



MARINE
SURVEYING
ACADEMY





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INTRODUCTION FROM MIKE SCHWARZ



Dear AVI

Welcome to this occasional edition of the eCMID AVI newsletter.

This year has gone rushing by. In May we celebrated 10 years since we launched the scheme, which is now unrecognizable from how it began. The celebratory event, which took place in Amsterdam earlier this year, was a success and it was a pleasure to meet a number of AVIs, many of whom were accredited in the early days.

So, this year we have welcomed a number of AVIs who are reaccrediting for the first time after five years; but we have also had a strong response from those reaccrediting for the second time at the end of their ten years' service. That is testament to the strength of the eCMID programme. It has kept scheme administrators Sharon Holland and Elly Bryant at IIMS exceedingly busy. Both are doing an excellent job on your behalf.

There are, of course, plenty of challenges for AVIs, but I must salute the efforts of IMCA who have continuously improved the administration experience for all involved. That process too is unrecognizable.

We continue to organise twice yearly Festivals of Knowledge and the next one, edition XI, takes place on Monday 15 December from 14.00 UK times. If you have yet to book your place online, please review the speaker schedule and reserve your place at <https://bit.ly/4qOretU>.

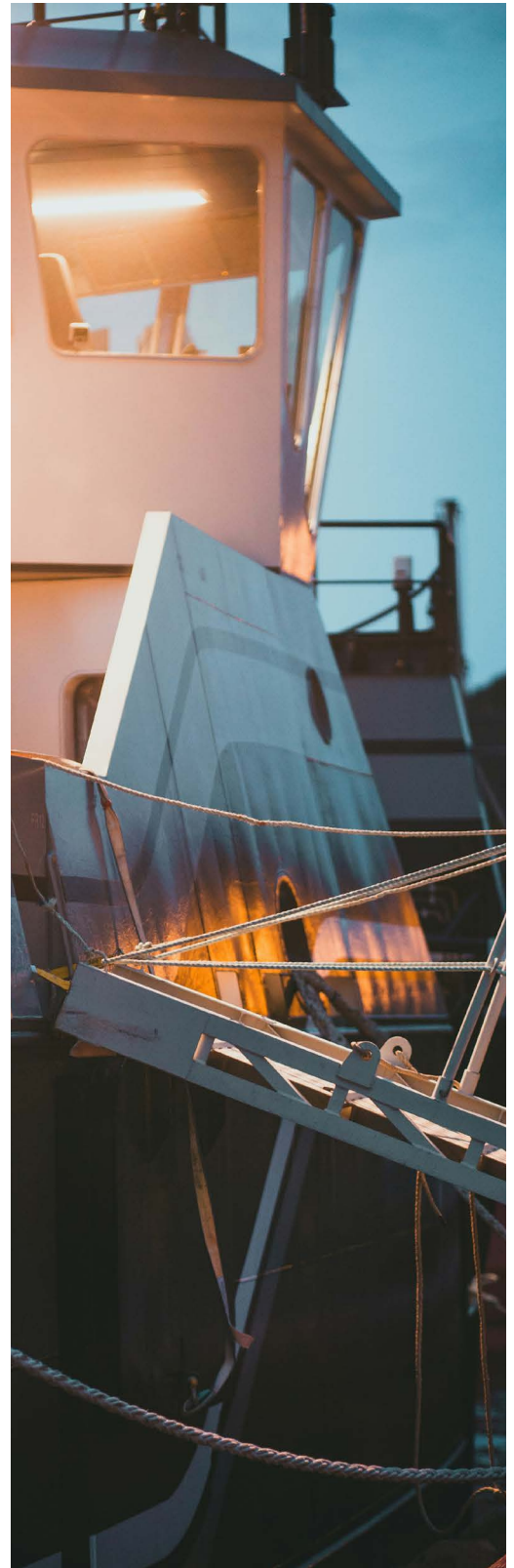
Of interest to some will be the presentation by Richard Purser at the Festival of Knowledge, who will introduce AVIs to new inspection documents M271 and M272 for USV and ROC inspections. Also published is Information Note 1714, which gives guidance on carrying out these inspections. Technology continues to evolve and these types of inspections will become increasingly popular in the future.

If you celebrate Christmas, may I wish you a peaceful festive season and happy new year and good fortune for 2026.

Best wishes

Mike Schwarz

Chief Executive Officer



eCMID AVI Team Updates



Elly Bryant,
eCMID AVI Accreditation Scheme Administrator

Overall, I manage all incoming applications and queries for the eCMID AVI scheme, process all CPD claims and the renewals and I also deal with Part 1 of the 5-year revalidation.

Over the past few months, we have had AVIs completing their year 10 which is their second 5-year revalidation, and it has been encouraging to see how many AVIs value the scheme so highly that they have now been with us for over a decade. Our processes have become more refined and automated since the scheme originally started back in 2015 and it's very encouraging to see so many of you on board with this.

We send out automated reminders prior to your renewal due date and also for the 5-year revalidation, this has helped AVIs to not run over the expiration date and allows more time to start the process to ensure the requirements are met on time.

It has also been encouraging to see the majority of our AVI community using the CPD app throughout the year to submit claims and stay competent with meeting the 10 CPD point requirement, this is now a mandatory requirement and the only way we can accept CPD claims. Please ensure you submit evidence with your claims otherwise these cannot be approved.

We have an upcoming change regarding fee's when AVIs are overdue. We will be sending the 60 day reminder and 30 day reminder as usual and on your due date, if the requirements have not be met you will be suspended and access withdrawn from the IMCA database, as previously you will still have a 3-month period to meet the requirements after your due date with no consequence however after this, there will now be a £150 admin fee to be reinstated after the 3 months has passed. This will be implemented as of December 1st 2025.

If you have any questions please contact me directly at: msainfo@iims.org.uk.





Sharon Holland,
Business Developer & Course Executive

My role within the eCMID AVI scheme is to manage the online courses which are the full day eCMID AVI Validation/Accreditation course and the half day eCMID AVI Five Year Revalidation – Part Two Mandatory Refresher course.

Both courses are delivered regularly via Zoom. The full day validation course must be attended by AVIs within 12 months of being accredited in order to validate the accreditation, and to align with the requirements of the scheme. Note that non-AVIs are also welcome to attend this course in order to find out more about the eCMID AVI scheme, and to see if it is the correct path they wish to embark upon. So, if you know of anyone who is interested please refer them to msacourses@iims.org.uk.

The Part Two Mandatory Refresher course is for those AVIs who are approaching five years as an AVI and who wish to revalidate for a further five years. In order to do this there is a process to follow and two parts to complete – Part One and Part Two. My colleague Elly Bryant manages Part One and I manage Part Two.

This year, we have seen an exceedingly high number of AVIs revalidating at five years, as well as revalidating for the second time at five years. Therefore, we are pleased to confirm there are a good number of AVIs in the scheme who have been active since the launch in 2015 and are celebrating 10 years as an AVI.

Validation course dates can be booked securely via [eCMID AVI Accreditation Course Schedule](#).

The Part Two Mandatory Refresher course dates for those AVIs revalidating at five years can be booked securely via [eCMID AVI 5 Year Revalidation - Part Two Mandatory Refresher Course Schedule](#).

IMPORTANT: the price of the online Part Two course will increase to £175.00 from 1 January 2026.

As always your feedback is encouraged following your attendance at a course and you will receive a feedback form via email. Please do try to complete this as soon as you can and return it to us. We would stress that your feedback is really important and is shared with the eCMID AVI Committee Member Group, whom we meet with regularly.

If you have any questions please contact me directly at: msacourses@iims.org.uk.

Reminder of The Five Year Revalidation Process

The Five Year Revalidation comprises two parts; Part One and Part Two. AVIs need to complete both parts if they wish to be fully revalidated for a further five years.

Part One is a 'Review of Evidence' - a review of the AVI's professional activity over the past 5 years will be carried out, and supporting evidence will need to be submitted.

Part Two is attendance of an online mandatory refresher course which lasts three hours and includes a short online test.

AVIs are notified by automated emails 90 days and 30 days before their revalidation due date, therefore providing sufficient time to prepare and complete both parts. Revalidation can be applied for three months before and after the revalidation due date. So, for example, if your revalidation due date is 12 December 2025 you can apply on 12 September 2025 and have until 12 March 2026 to revalidate.

For any questions relating to Part One of the Five Year Revalidation please email Elly Bryant at msainfo@iims.org.uk.

For any questions relating to Part Two of the Five Year Revalidation please email Sharon Holland at msacourses@iims.org.uk.

Exciting news – online event

Plans are well underway for the **ELEVENTH** online eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge XI in December! This event awards 4 CPD points and is an excellent opportunity to top up your points if you need to - 10 CPD points are required per year in order to remain active.

We invite you to attend the online eCMID AVI Festival of Knowledge XI on Monday 15 December 2025 at 14.00hrs – 17.30hrs (GMT), via Zoom

The cost is £95.00, and you can attend live on the day and listen to all speaker presentations, or alternatively you can choose to purchase the video content only if you are unavailable on the day, and you will still be able to claim the full 4 CPD points.

XI

Course Dates - online via Zoom

eCMID AVI validation course

A reminder that the online eCMID AVI validation course is to be attended within 12 months / 1 year of being accredited as an AVI in order to validate the accreditation.

We also welcome individuals who are non-AVIs and who are just enquiring about the eCMID AVI scheme. If you have heard about eCMID and want to find out more about the scheme you are welcome to attend a course before submitting your eCMID application.

The eCMID AVI validation course typically runs at 09.00hrs to 16.30hrs (London/GMT), but on occasion it has a later start. The last course of this year is Tuesday 25 November.

eCMID AVI course dates

Five Year Revalidation – Part Two Mandatory Refresher course - note, course times for this 3-hour course are typically 09.00hrs to 12.00hrs, but may, on occasion differ depending on delegate locations:

- Wednesday 26 November 2025 **FULL**
- Friday 2 January 2026
- Monday 2 February 2026
- Wednesday 25 February 2026
- Tuesday 3 March 2026

eCMID AVI Validation course - note, this course typically runs from 09.00hrs to 16.30hrs (London/GMT), but again may differ occasionally.

- eCMID AVI course - Wednesday 7 January **FULL**
- eCMID AVI course - Tuesday 3 February

All course dates are published to the eCMID AVI website at www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com



ACT NOW!

It is important to be aware that course places are limited and courses fill quickly.



eCMID AVI festival OF KNOWLEDGE XII

Monday 15 December 2025, 14.00hrs – 17.30hrs
£95.00 per delegate plus 4 CPD points

Festival of Knowledge XI Agenda

- 14.00 Introduction by Mike Schwarz, CEO IIMS
- 14.15 IMCA – Adam Hugo, Head of IT & Ade Adebajo, IT Infrastructure and Support
eCMID AVI Development Roadmap
- 14.35 IMCA – Written by Captain Andy Goldsmith, Technical Adviser – Marine,
presented by Jennifer Evans, Technical Adviser - Marine
Final Report Quality Assurance Update
- 15.05 IMCA – Richard Purser, Technical Adviser – Marine
***M271 & M272: Assurance for Uncrewed Surface Vessels and Remote
Operation Centres***
- 15.25 BREAK
- 15.35 Michal Dylon, Marine/DP/QHSE consultant and AVI
STCW training requirements vs HSC Code and Flag requirements
- 16.00 Marc Van Dorth, Project Operations Engineer – Marine, Seaway 7
Heavy Lift
- 16.25 Peter Solvang, Managing Director, DP and Marine Assurance Norway AS
What is a DP vessel?
- 16.50 Captain Sujit Viswanathan, Market Manager & Global Practice Lead, Noble
Denton Marine Services
Opening and closing meetings during an inspection
- 17.15 Mike Schwarz, CEO IIMS
Questions and AOB

To book and pay for your place at the eCMID
AVI Festival of Knowledge XI, please complete
the online form at <https://bit.ly/4qOretU>

IMCA Updates



Safety Flash Reminder

IMCA releases regular Safety Flashes which are available to read on the eCMID website at <https://www.ecmidvesselinspectors.com/> and are also published on LinkedIn.

The aim of Safety Flashes is to avoid repeated incidents. This is achieved by members sharing the key safety matters and incidents that are referenced in the articles.

All safety flashes can be found on the IMCA website at <https://www.imca-int.com/safetyflashes>.

IMCA Events

IMCA deliver a regular programme of meetings and events all over the world including regional meetings and technical seminars. The regional meetings provide opportunities to connect with members. The technical events form part of the global work programme and are primarily subject-specific seminars and workshops which bring together subject matter experts to discuss solutions to industry issues.

The events provide an open forum for Members to meet and share professional ideas and opinions.

IMCA also supports and contributes to third-party events – these are primarily conferences and exhibitions run by other organisations. IMCA promote the events for the interest of members and in support of the industry.

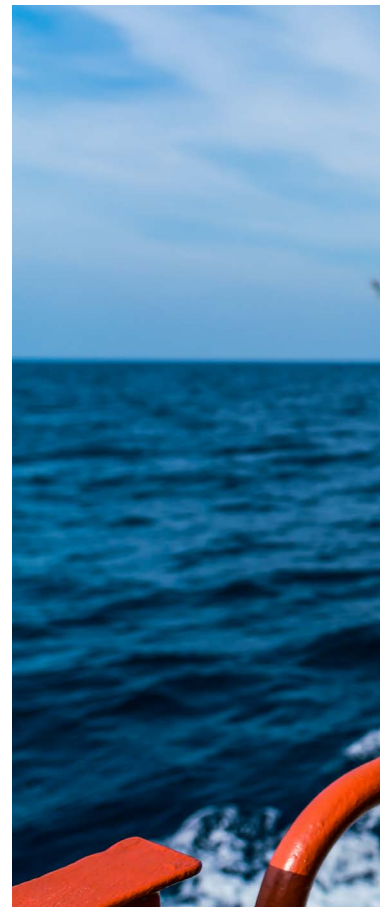
For a calendar of IMCA events, view at <https://bit.ly/3ScumkO>.

Coming up very soon is the Global Summit in Kuala Lumpur. This will focus on key trends in safety, skills and technology.

Date and venue : 26 - 27 November, InterContinental Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Registration is now open – go to <http://bit.ly/47df3hE> to book your place.

The IMCA Global Summit 2025 will explore how technology-driven innovation is helping to safeguard our workforce, revolutionise skills and training, and improve efficiency and performance.

Keep an eye on the IMCA website for all news and events - <http://bit.ly/4nPpHSI>.



Quality assurance of final CMID reports

by Captain Andy Goldsmith FNI, Technical Adviser – Marine, IMCA

Over the past three years, since September 2022, the IMCA eCMID Committee has been reviewing a selection of eCMID and small vessel inspection reports for quality assurance purposes. During this period a total of 148 reports (76 eCMID and 72 small vessel reports) from 28 countries have been reviewed. The intent was to assess the quality and consistency of the final reports and allow the committee to identify areas of improvement within the templates. These changes ultimately assist the inspectors to improve the quality and consistency of their reporting.

It is anticipated that the recent reorganisation of guidance notes in the inspector app has been of valuable assistance to AVIs, enabling them to clearly see and report on what is required. Analysis of final reports, since the changes came into effect, certainly reflects this to have been the case, with notable improvements across all sections.

The committee is happy with the continuous improvements that have been seen so far but would like to remind inspectors to report on the level of compliance with procedures, and not just that the procedures are available onboard. A future revision of the AVI App will include a reminder of this point within the guidance notes.

It has been welcome to see that inspection summaries are becoming more consistent but can still vary in length. The committee considers a good summary should be just a few sentences summarising the type and condition of the vessel, whether it is well maintained, the crew knowledgeable, and whether its safety management system is effectively working.

The ability to add photographs to a selection of questions was removed at the last revision to discourage the photographing of documents, logbooks, and noticeboards. These types of images are discouraged by the committee because often it is not possible to read the photographed images, so they add little value. For example, adding a photograph of an International Safety Management (ISM) certificate adds nothing if the inspector has already answered yes to the question 'Does the vessel have a valid ISM certificate?'. Equally collages of photographs are discouraged as they are difficult to interpret. While not wanting to discourage photographs, a future revision might look to further restrict the number of questions where images can be added.

The disclaimer requirement is not always fully understood. For example, some reports have had the report summary or the findings reproduced as a disclaimer or it is just left blank. A future revision will include a disclaimer template to assist inspectors with this element.

The committee considers the consistency of final reports has shown a marked improvement during the past 12 months. As discussed above there are a few more improvements to be implemented to the system that we believe will assist you in bringing the level of consistency between reports to an even higher level. Thank you for your continued support.

eCMID Development Roadmap by Adam Hugo, Head of IT, IMCA

The eCMID IT platform continues to advance, with several updates in active development.

The vessel operator pages in the database site will soon provide improved visibility of vessels, report status and readiness for inspection (based on pre-population of vessel particulars data, where a finding for non-completion was implemented earlier this year). The eCMID committee is also reviewing the particulars sections with a view to simplifying elements which may exist elsewhere and aren't critical to the overall inspection data, aiding operators and inspectors alike.

Inspectors will be pleased to learn that IMCA is also reviewing the availability of the guidance documentation referenced in the inspection templates, which inspectors may find useful to refer to onboard and while writing their report. The first step will be the introduction of links and excerpts within the inspection app, which should be available before the end of 2025. A minor (.1) revision will be made to the templates to facilitate this, after which updates to the referenced documents will be included automatically.

These form part of the eCMID development roadmap, which the cross-industry eCMID Committee reviews at its quarterly meetings. Many of the updates arise directly from AVI feedback, so please keep your ideas coming – support@ecmid.com.

A day in the life of **Andrew Corrie**

A highly experienced maritime professional with 18 years of progressive sea service, including holding a Master Mariner Certificate of Competency since 2013. Possessing extensive experience across a diverse fleet, including LNG carriers, Hydrographic Survey, Oil Tankers, AHTS, Seismic Survey, Colliers, Nuclear Transport, and Windfarm Installation vessels. Successful transition to shore-based leadership, managing Marine Operations for SMC from 2019 to 2024. Joined RWE in 2025 to apply marine expertise in assurance and offshore activities within the renewable energy sector.



1. What was your route into the maritime sector and were you always attracted by the sea?

Growing up by the sea and having strong connections with the fishing industry, it seemed inevitable that I would pursue a life at sea. At school, I was fortunate to undertake a GCSE in Nautical Studies, which cemented my appetite for further learning and showed me how something I enjoyed could become a career—much to the dismay of the head of upper school, who viewed working at sea as a ‘waste.’ Looking back, I can only surmise this thought as not having a great understanding of the wealth of opportunities a maritime career can offer.

After finishing school at 16, I embarked on a cadetship through Trinity House, serving on multiple vessel types around the world and studying academically at South Tyneside College. After four years, I qualified as an Officer of the Watch.

2. What are the biggest challenges of your day-to-day role?

In an era of instant communication, working in an industry that operates around the clock presents a challenge in managing time and priorities. Fortunately, I benefit from strong support from both our marine team and the wider project teams, which helps tremendously in managing the workload.

3. Typically what types of vessels are you most engaged with and which ones are most time consuming from an inspection point of view and why?

In my day-to-day work, I am involved with a wide range of vessel types supporting the renewables sector. From a personal development perspective, it is fascinating to experience the variety of vessels, from small survey boats to the largest wind turbine installation ships and everything in between. Each vessel presents unique challenges and learning opportunities, broadening my understanding of maritime operations within the renewable energy industry.

4. We say that every day is a school day. So, in a world that is full of emerging technology, how important is it to refresh your knowledge and keep up to date?

It is certainly important to keep one eye on the emerging technology within our industry but equally keeping one eye on the changes to legislation, rules and best practice that support the new technologies.

Last month, I visited a new type of Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) during London International Shipping Week. Although my knowledge of these vessels may be limited in comparison to other vessel types, being interested and curious can lead to a greater understanding.

5. To those with limited experience, or who are embarking on a career in the world of vessel inspections, what advice would you offer them?

Do the best you can with the time you have, always aiming to add value to your client's inspection program. Don't be afraid to ask questions, and if there is any doubt, remember there is a strong network of support available—especially within AVI community.

6. What is the strangest thing that has happened when on a vessel inspection?

While onboard a large construction vessel offshore in the Baltic Sea, I was inspecting the aft mooring stations early one evening. Through a fairlead, something caught my eye, the full moon, orange in colour, rising directly behind an offshore wind farm.



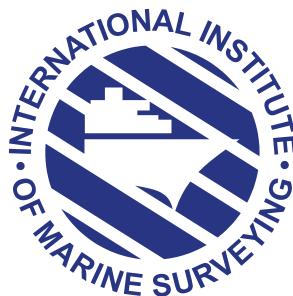
It was a beautiful yet surreal sight to see wind turbines silhouetted against the moon. To this day, I wish I had a better camera with me to capture that moment!

7. When the work is finished, how do you like to relax and unwind in your spare time?

When the day is done, there is no better way to unwind than taking a stroll with the dog, either along the beach or into the national park which are both close by.

Sometimes I may partake in a game of Squash or Padel at the local sports club with a stop off at the village pub for a well-earned pint of Guinness on the way back.

THE REPORT



The magazine of the International Institute of Marine Surveying



The Report magazine

The Report Magazine is the official publication of the International Institute of Marine Surveying.

The Institute publishes the Report Magazine four times per year in March, June, September and December. Members are invited to (and do) submit articles regularly for publication, which entitles them to CPD points.

Each issue will appeal to big ship and small craft surveyors alike. Its content is also highly relevant to P&I Clubs, vessel operators, marine insurers and others involved in the maritime sector. Each issue will be a mix of technical articles and more general features related to the profession of marine surveying. Some of this editorial content is supplied by members and the rest is specially commissioned by the editor.

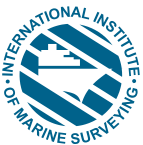
To read the most recent edition, go to – <https://www.iims.org.uk/report-magazines/>.

Additionally, each month IIMS publishes a news bulletin as well as a mid-month communiqué. Read the latest edition of the news bulletin – <https://www.iims.org.uk/news-bulletins/>.

A benefit from IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveying) for eCMID AVIs

Did you know? eCMID AVIs can automatically apply for membership of IIMS at Technician level.

A number of AVIs over the years have taken advantage of their eCMID accreditation to become members of the International Institute of Marine Surveying (IIMS). As an AVI you are already cleared and checked and don't need to go through the formal application procedure to become a Technician member. You are only required to apply and pay the annual fee which is from as little as £86 depending on which area you are located in. Although, if you wish to apply for a different category of membership, you can of course do so, but you will be required to complete the formal application process in its entirety.



TECHNICIAN MEMBERSHIP | *TechIIMS*
The IIMS Technician membership is open to...

Individuals holding a recognised qualification, for example, Inspector level 2 or higher (NACE, FROSIO, ICorr), RMCI, eCMID AVI, NDT Technicians (CSWIP), gauging personnel, divers or other surveyors with at least three years full-time practical experience in a marine-related field. If you choose to use the IIMS designated letters on any marketing communications as a Technician Member, you must use the initials **TechIIMS** after your name.

As a member of IIMS, you will have access to membership benefits and there is much to explore; a lot of which is free.

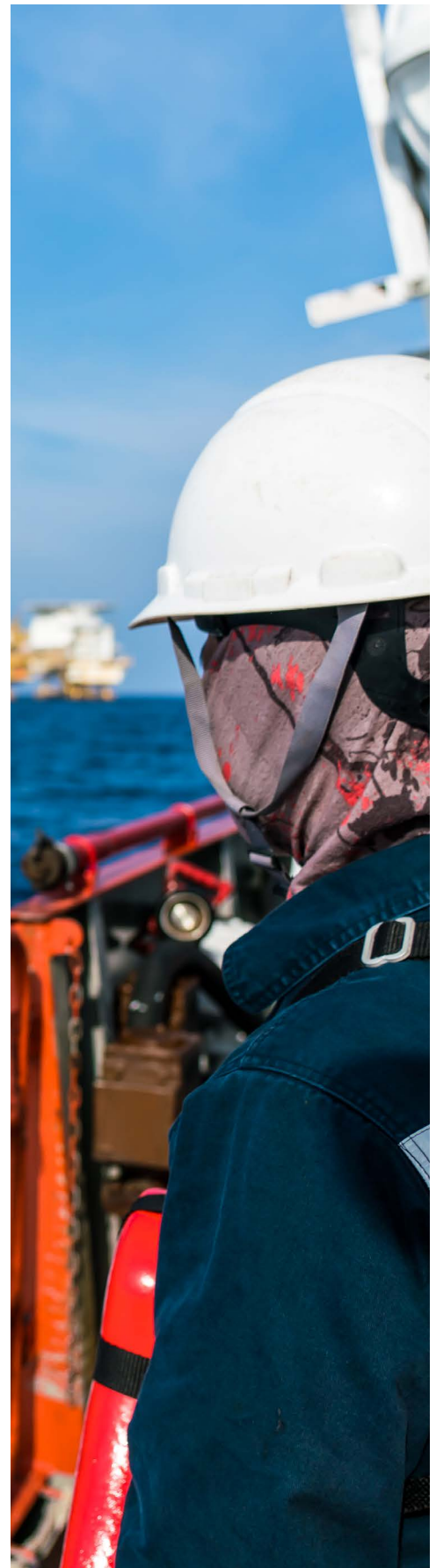
The award-nominated quarterly Report Magazine is a must-read and is available in PDF and eReader formats depending on your preference.

The monthly News Bulletins are packed with essential reading and will help you to keep abreast of industry news as it happens. And the Mid-Month Marine Communique is a welcome email into your inbox with a wealth of links to helpful material.

The IIMS YouTube Channel gives you access to 300 videos on a wide variety of surveying topics made over the years at various conferences and seminars.

Of professional interest to many in the surveying profession are incident and accident reports from the authorities. Over the years, IIMS has built up a database of hundreds of such reports and these are freely available at the Safety Briefings page.

If you are interested and would like details about membership, please email **Rachel Moores**, IIMS Membership Secretary at membershipsupport@iims.org.uk.



CPD Update

Continuous Professional Development is an important and mandatory part of accreditation and demonstrates a commitment to your professional self-development.

The requirement is 10 CPD points per annual renewal year. There are a range of activities and tasks to help you achieve this - our dedicated eCMID CPD App can help track your progress. Download the App if you haven't already.

Submitting CPD claims is easy via the App and you are encouraged to do so on a regular basis. The App keeps a tally of your current annual score so you can always keep up to date with your status. Full details of the eCMID CPD App can be found here <https://bit.ly/3nufXim>.



WhatsApp Group

There is a WhatsApp eCMID AVI Discussion Group which has been created to share knowledge, best practice and news about marine surveying. It is also a medium to use to seek advice from others who may have the resolution to a problem.

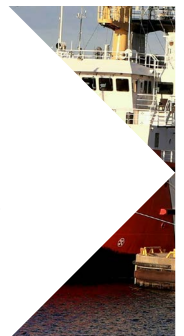
We wholly encourage you to use this to share your experiences, ask questions and support each other.

There are currently over 160 participants in the group and if you would like to join, please email msacourses@iims.org.uk with your preferred contact number.

Upcoming IIMS (International Institute of Marine Surveyors) activities

The Marine Surveying Academy (MSA) is a division of the International Institute of Marine Surveying Ltd (IIMS). The IIMS hosts a variety of professional training courses and online seminars for marine surveyors.

Below is just a snippet of upcoming events. All information can be found on the IIMS website at <https://www.iims.org.uk/events/categories/iims-events-meetings/>.



Contact Details / Points of Contact

Sharon Holland - Business Developer & Course Executive - msacourses@iims.org.uk,
For information relating to all courses and events, and questions relating to Part Two of the Five Year Revalidation.

Elly Bryant - eCMID AVI Accreditation Scheme Administrator - msainfo@iims.org.uk,
For all eCMID AVI applications, renewals, CPD, and questions relating to Part One of the Five Year Revalidation.

Jennifer Argent - Head of Finance - accounts@iims.org.uk, For all accounting matters.