

Mike Schwarz

Chief Executive Officer, International Institute of Marine Surveying



Mike Schwarz joined IIMS as Chief Executive Officer in January 2014. Although from neither a technical nor marine background originally, Mike brings a wealth of skills and experience gained from senior roles over 30 years in media, publishing, membership and events organisations and he is a keen exponent of the internet, digital and social media landscape. Mike has worked at director level for some high-profile media organisations, including Daily Mail and he was one of several Managing Directors within the Johnston Press group, formerly a FTSE 100 listed company.

Coming afresh into this industry meant Mike has been able to identify new opportunities and to shape the Institute for the digital age. This has necessitated a great deal of change, which he has been actively pursuing with the help of his head office colleagues for the benefit of the membership. Until recently, Mike was Chair of the MCA's *Certifying Authority Professional Standards Working Group* and has become increasingly passionate about driving up marine surveying standards in general. There are many who remain unsure of the importance of the marine surveyor's role through a lack of knowledge, but essentially it to ensure the safety of lives, cargoes, and assets at sea.

Under his guidance, IIMS has emerged as the leading worldwide membership organisation for the surveying profession and the Institute has over 1,000 members in more than 100 countries. Surveying standards around the world vary greatly, but Mike and his team are constantly engaged in developing education, training, mentoring and networking opportunities for those working in this niche, but vitally important area of maritime operations.

Mike admits to being a bit of a 'sports nut' and in his spare time he is a keen and regular tennis player. He also has a passion for music of all genres. Mike has two sons and two granddaughters.