

IMCA is the international trade association representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

It seeks to:

- strive for the highest possible standards with a balance of risk and cost in: health and safety; technology; quality and efficiency; environmental awareness and protection;
- achieve and sustain self-regulation in the industry;
- ease the free movement of equipment and personnel globally;
- achieve equitable contracting regimes;
- provide the framework for training, certification, competence and recruitment to support and sustain the industry globally;
- resolve industry issues; and
- promote co-operation across the industry.

Members include pipelay, heavy lift, diving, remotely operated vehicle, survey and offshore construction contractors, plus various contractors operating specialist marine equipment.

IMCA has two core activities in which all members participate:

- Competence & Training includes a comprehensive framework devoted to promoting safety by defining and encouraging training and competence in key safety-related positions.
- Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL) includes monitoring national and international regulatory bodies, circulation of relevant information to members and advancement of industry positions where necessary

Members join in one or more technical divisions relevant to their own activities:

- Diving
- Marine
- Offshore Survey
- Remote Systems & ROV

IMCA works with a global focus, but also has regional sections covering the key offshore areas: Asia-Pacific, Central & North America, Europe & Africa, Middle East & India and South America.

IMCA has published substantial and comprehensive good practice guidance on marine operations based on its members' experience in a range of related areas. More details on specific activities are set out on these factsheets.

IMCA arranges a variety of events all around the world aimed at bringing together its members and others in the industry for the benefit of the industry.

## IMCA annual seminar

IMCA's annual seminar has grown from an event focused on dynamic positioning and aimed at Marine Division members to encompass the full range of marine contracting operations, including offshore construction, diving, ROV operations, surveying and more.

The seminars, which began under IMCA's predecessor DPVOA, have been held since 1993 and can now attract over 300 personnel each year – contractors' offshore and onshore personnel together with equipment suppliers, engineering consultants, offshore operators and regulators – to enable exchange of technical and operational information. These seminars, typically with registration fees at a fraction of commercial conference rates, aim to promote lively and topical discussion and avoid commercialism. So far, they have not only succeeded in the above, but they have also moved the discussion progressively forward to improve the safety and efficiency of marine operations. They are also a fertile source of new action items for IMCA's work programme.

A variety of formats are used – formal presentations, question-and-answer sessions, panel discussions and workshops – which helps ensure all delegates have the opportunity of contributing and learning from each other. A packed programme also includes evening social events for further discussion and networking. The seminar also has a small exhibition, enabling delegates to learn about the latest technological developments and services from IMCA's supplier members.

## Safety seminars

Another annual fixture on the IMCA calendar is the increasingly popular safety seminar. This has often been held at a sporting location, helping to attract both onshore and offshore personnel to the event (with venues including Manchester United's Old Trafford football stadium, Murrayfield international rugby ground, Ajax Amsterdam Arena and Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros). These seminars bring together individuals with a variety of backgrounds to share their experiences so that all voices are heard and can be learnt from as the industry aims towards the zero-injury goal.

These safety seminars have also seen a number of new formats, including safety 'share fairs' and displays of members' own safety promotional materials. Dramatic performances and personal accounts of the effects of offshore incidents have really brought the message home.

### International Events

IMCA members are active in the offshore industry all around the world. Its events, therefore, are similarly global in nature.

Following is just a sample of the locations in which IMCA has held its events:

- ◆ Aberdeen, UK
- ◆ Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ◆ Abu Dhabi, UAE
- ◆ Bangkok, Thailand
- ◆ Copenhagen, Denmark
- ◆ Houston, USA
- ◆ Jakarta, Indonesia
- ◆ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ◆ London, UK
- ◆ Mumbai, India
- ◆ Noordwijk, Netherlands
- ◆ Paris, France
- ◆ Perth, Australia
- ◆ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- ◆ Shekou, China
- ◆ Singapore
- ◆ Stavanger, Norway

### IMCA events online

Visit our website to find out more about the full range of IMCA events, including detailed global and regional calendars of forthcoming seminars, section meetings and third party exhibitions and conferences.

[www.imca-int.com/events](http://www.imca-int.com/events)

### Briefing seminars

IMCA regularly holds briefing seminars around the world, often in conjunction with the quarterly meetings held by IMCA's four regional sections – Americas Deepwater, Asia-Pacific, Europe & Africa and Middle East & India. They provide the opportunity for those not already in membership – including oil company clients and potential contractor and supplier members – to gain an insight into IMCA's activities and their relevance to attendees' own organisations.



## Other topics

A wide range of workshops and other events has been held to address particular topics and IMCA continues to provide a forum for its members to raise new issues. Events held in recent years include:

- ◆ Training provision and industry needs, bringing together contractors and training establishments
- ◆ Environmental protection
- ◆ Competence assurance and assessment
- ◆ Decommissioning
- ◆ Pipelaying
- ◆ Marine construction in the renewable energy sector
- ◆ Security and piracy
- ◆ ROV operations
- ◆ Review of IMCA documents, such as the competence framework and the Common Marine Inspection Document (CMID)

## Social events

While IMCA rightly is serious about its work in relation to health and safety and more widely in the offshore sector, it also organises social events, such as an annual charity ball and golf days, which provide an opportunity for members to network in a more relaxed setting, socialise with colleagues and clients and also raise money to help the work of marine-related charities world-wide.