



Global Summit

*Raising Standards. Empowering People.
Sustaining the Future*

**28 - 29 October 2026
Antwerp, Belgium**

Programme





Global Summit

The Global Summit is IMCA's most prestigious event, bringing together over 400 business leaders, decision-makers, and technical experts from across the world to shape the future of the offshore contracting sector.

The 2026 Summit will be held on 28 – 29 October in Antwerp, and we are offering industry partners the opportunity to support the event through our sponsorship and exhibition packages.

Position your brand at the forefront of IMCA's globally-recognised efforts to improve the safety, efficiency, and performance in the marine energy sector.

Key themes and topics

The IMCA Global Summit 2026 will be building on the success of the 2025 event and continue to be at the forefront of **safety, technical developments** and **AI** and aim to **shape how marine contracting will evolve** in the coming years. As always, it hopes to inspire and attract the next generation to a field of endless opportunities and define the future of an ever-evolving energy landscape.

These topics will be explored via keynotes and presentations from established global experts, engaging panel discussions, collaborative workshop sessions, and structured debate. And, we will celebrate best practice and outstanding achievement at a special ceremony to announce the winners of the 2026 IMCA Awards.

Wednesday 28 October

Time	Okapi Rooms	Marble Hall	Gorilla Rooms	Darwin Hall
08:00-09:00	Registration and refreshments			
09:00-09:10	Welcome to the IMCA Global Summit 2026			
09:10-09:30	Session 1 Global offshore outlook - What's next?			
09:30-10:05	IMCA 2030 - Board & CEO vision			
10:05-10:15	Welcome to Antwerp			
10:15-11:00	Refreshment break and exhibition			
11:00-12:15		Session 2a What we can learn from industries that chose people	Session 2b Preventing the next Serious Injury or Fatality (SIF): from insight to action	Session 2c Navigating change: EU and IMO policy developments
12:15-13:15	Lunch and exhibition			
13:15-13:55	Keynote Session			
13:55-14:00	Movement break			

Wednesday 28 October

Time	Okapi Rooms	Marble Hall	Gorilla Rooms	Darwin Hall
14:00-15:00		Session 3a From entry to impact: what the next generation really needs	Session 3b Offshore security in a changing threat landscape	Session 3c DP in offshore wind: beyond position keeping
15:00-15:30	Refreshment break and exhibition			
15:30-17:00		Session 4a Shaping the future of offshore survey: IMCA Guidance and workforce development	Session 4b Getting the deal right: contracts and insurance in offshore wind	Session 4c The end game: offshore wind decommissioning in practice
17:00	End of day one			
19:00-22:00	Gala Dinner and Awards			

Thursday 29 October

Time	Okapi Rooms	Marble Hall	Gorilla Rooms	Darwin Hall
09:00-09:30	Registration and refreshments			
09:30-09:35	Welcome to day two			
09:35-09:55	Invited Speaker session			
09:55-10:00	Movement break			
10:00-11:15		Session 5a Mental fitness in offshore diving	Session 5b From ROV simulation to live operations: training, remote intervention and the future of subsea operations	Session 5c Lifting and Rigging
11:15-11:45	Refreshment break and exhibition			
11:45-13:15		Session 6a From policy to practice: designing offshore for a changing workforce	Session 6b Beneath the surface: evolving practices in commercial diving	Session 6c Closing the loop: how circular collaboration enables decarbonisation and supply-chain resilience
13:15-14:15	Lunch and exhibition			
14:15-14:25	Reflections on the last two days			

Thursday 29 October

Time	Okapi Rooms	Marble Hall	Gorilla Rooms	Darwin Hall
14:25-14:35	Ask IMCA			
14:35-15:25	Keynote Session - Chris Jewell			
15:25-15:30	Conclusions and conference close			

Session Detail

Wednesday 28 October

Session	Description
1	Global offshore outlook - what's next? David Linden, Executive Director at Westwood Global Energy Group, will give an expert perspective on the changing outlook for global offshore energy markets, the evolving needs of offshore developers, and the challenges and opportunities that this will create for the marine contracting industry.
	IMCA 2030 - Raising Standards. Empowering People. Sustaining the Future IMCA's President Hugo Bouvey and CEO Iain Grainger will discuss how IMCA will chart a course for 2030, defining how IMCA will bring Members together to advance technical excellence and global standardisation, champion a safe, skilled, and diverse workforce, and support sustainability and operational efficiency in line with IMCA's new 2030 strategy, which will be unveiled at the two-day conference.
2a	

Session Detail

Wednesday 28 October

Session	Title & Description
2b	Preventing the next Serious Injury or Fatality (SIF): from insight to action Serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs) remain one of the most important challenges facing offshore marine contracting. This session will move from insight to action, exploring where SIF risk is emerging, how leading companies are responding, and what practical steps can make the greatest difference offshore. Short member presentations will consider critical controls, meaningful KPIs, leadership, human factors and frontline engagement, before a panel discussion asks what really prevents serious harm in practice. Audience input will help identify the SIF risks IMCA should prioritise and the practical guidance, tools and insights members need to support future prevention.
2c	Navigating change: EU and IMO policy developments This session will explore the rapidly evolving regulatory landscape shaping maritime decarbonisation, with a focus on key developments at both EU and IMO level. It will examine topics such as the expansion of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) to shipping and progress on the IMO's Net Zero Framework, including emerging global measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Bringing together policymakers and industry leaders, the discussion will highlight areas of convergence and divergence between regional and global approaches, assess implications for the offshore sector, and consider how regulatory alignment and a pragmatic approach can deliver effective change.
3a	From entry to impact: what the next generation really needs Hosted by the IMCA Next Generation Network, this interactive workshop will bring together early-career professionals and experienced industry leaders to explore how different generations view the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of the marine contracting industry. Through facilitated discussions in mixed-experience groups, participants will share perspectives on key topics [including AI and automation, the energy transition, maritime security, offshore survey, decommissioning, diving, marine biodiversity, circularity in supply chains, lifting and rigging, and other themes] emerging from the summit programme. The session will provide a platform for open dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration between current and future industry leaders. Key insights from each group discussion will be shared with the wider audience, highlighting common themes, differing viewpoints, and practical takeaways for the industry as it navigates a rapidly evolving landscape.

Session Detail

Wednesday 28 October

Session	Title & Description
3b	Offshore security in a changing threat landscape Offshore security risks are changing quickly. Geopolitical instability, GNSS jamming and spoofing, and the growing use of drones are creating new challenges for offshore marine contractors. This session will explore what these threats mean in practice, using current security insight and operational examples from offshore construction and sensitive operating areas. A panel discussion will then ask how companies can prepare for, adapt to and recover from security disruption, and where IMCA can best support members through shared learning, practical guidance and coordinated industry action.
3c	DP in offshore wind: beyond position keeping Competence, Access and Operational Performance: Operations within Offshore Wind Farms
4a	Shaping the future of offshore survey: IMCA Guidance and workforce development Two spotlight sessions highlighting the IMCA Offshore Survey Division's technical guidance alongside initiatives inspiring new entrants and strengthening the survey talent pipeline.

Session Detail

Wednesday 28 October

Session	Title & Description
4b	Getting the deal right: contracts and insurance in offshore wind This interactive session will hear from developers, contractors, insurers, and law firms to identify the challenges faced by offshore wind projects in achieving contracts that provide a fair return - and share of risk - for all parties. The pros and cons of existing forms of contract and those under development from FIDIC, LOGIC, and BIMCO will also be discussed.
4c	

Session Detail

Thursday 29 October

Session	Title & Description
5a	Mental fitness in offshore diving This 75-minute panel session will explore the importance of mental fitness in offshore diving and its relationship to safety, performance, decision-making, and team effectiveness. Moving beyond awareness, the discussion will focus on the operational realities of offshore life, including isolation, fatigue, shift work, limited privacy, family pressures, stigma, and job insecurity. Drawing on perspectives from industry, operations, medical support, and lived experience, the session will consider how mental fitness challenges may present in practice and what can be done to recognise and address them early. The panel will also examine the role of leadership, team culture, and practical support systems in creating psychologically safer offshore environments.
5b	From ROV simulation to live operations: training, remote intervention and the future of subsea operations This session brings together three organisations addressing the future of subsea operations: From smart robotic composite repairs that offers a practical alternative to conventional routes by using ROV-deployed, ISO-compliant methods to restore pipeline integrity and extend asset life. To the development of next-generation Remote Operations Centres, with integrated digital environments that can connect pilots, engineers, survey teams and clients through a simulation-to-operation workflow with improved situational awareness and resilient communications. and a focus on simulator-based ROV training, demonstrating how realistic physics-based environments, configurable missions and flexible instructor-led setups can strengthen ROV/ROC competence development. Together, they show how Autonomy and remote operations, are converging to support safer, smarter and more scalable offshore subsea operations
5c	Raising the standards of tomorrow, through design and technology.
6a	From policy to practice: designing offshore for a changing workforce As the offshore industry faces increasing skills shortages and evolving workforce expectations, attracting and retaining talent has become a critical priority—not a future concern. This interactive session brings together perspectives from across IMCA's global divisions to explore where offshore work is still shaped by legacy assumptions, and what needs to change to ensure it works for today's workforce. Through real experiences, practical insights, and cross-industry discussion, speakers will examine the barriers affecting entry, retention, and progression—and, crucially, identify actionable solutions that can be implemented at scale.

Session Detail

Thursday 29 October

Session	Title & Description
6b	Beneath the surface: evolving practices in commercial diving Picking up the key themes from the IMCA Diving Division's Safety, Medical, Technical and Training Forum, this session takes the conversation a step further—connecting strategy, risk and innovation across the commercial diving industry. From the global stage, the introduction of ISO Working Group 16 signals a major opportunity to shape future standards for both manned and remote underwater operations. It's a call for industry engagement at a time when consistency, clarity and collaboration are increasingly critical. Closer to the worksite, attention turns to a growing and often uncomfortable reality: the rising risk of serious medical events in an ageing workforce. It challenges long-held assumptions around preparedness, accountability, and what should reasonably be anticipated. Finally, the session tackles one of the industry's quiet inefficiencies—helium transfer. As supply pressures mount and costs rise, longstanding processes are being rethought, unlocking faster, smarter and more responsible approaches to Heliox management. Standards, people and performance—this session brings the pressure points into focus and highlights where the industry moves next.
6c	Closing the loop: how circular collaboration enables decarbonisation and supply-chain resilience. Our circularity session at the Global Summit will focus on turning ambition into practical action for the offshore industry. Through a series of real-world case studies, we will showcase how companies are already embedding circular principles across their operations and supply chains, highlighting both successes and lessons learned. A moderated panel discussion will bring together industry leaders to explore common challenges, opportunities for collaboration, and pathways to scale circular solutions. In addition, expert insights will provide a broader perspective on emerging trends and innovation in circular economy practices. The session aims to inspire participants, spark dialogue, and equip attendees with tangible solutions they can apply within their own organisations
Ask IMCA	
Keynote: Chris Jewell	



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