

Minutes of a meeting of the Association’s Remote Operations & ROV Committee held on 18 March 2026 from 10:00 via videoconference.

1 Welcome and attendance

RM welcomed members to the meeting. The latest meeting attendance was as follows including apologies received:

First	Last		Company	Position	27/05/2025	09/09/2025	11/12/2025	18/03/2026
Rene	Van Der Starre	RVDS	Subsea 7	Chair	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Darren	Shannon	DS	Oceaneering	V/Chair	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	✉ Apologies	☑ Attended
Craig	Campbell	CC	Fugro		✉ Apologies	✉ Apologies	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Doug	Middleton	DM	ROVOP		☑ Attended	✉ Apologies	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Graeme	Russell	GR	TechnipFMC		☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Mahesh	Govindan	MG	IKM Subsea Singapore	ME&I	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Malcolm	Rennie	MR	Mermaid		☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Mike	Leijerzapf	ML	Allseas		☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Sabine	Smith	SS	Boskalis		☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Tom	Baguet	TB	Jan De Nul		☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended	☑ Attended
Tommy	Adebayo	TA	Total Marine Technology		☑ Attended	☑ Attended	✉ Apologies	☑ Attended
Bruce	MacAngus TBC	TBC	Saipem TBC (Via Ewan)		N/A	N/A	☑ Attended	☑ Attended

2 Competition law compliance policy

The IMCA Competition Law Compliance Policy was drawn to the attention of all present. A weblink to the policy was provided on the presentation for all to review.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the previous Remote Systems and ROV Committee meeting held on 11th December 2025 were sent out 2 weeks before the meeting, no objections or amendments were needed, actions from the last meeting were carried forward where necessary, with ongoing reviews and document updates highlighted, these minutes were approved for use by the committee chair RVDS.

Action: RM to send 2026 Q1 minutes to Chair for signature

4 Membership and committee composition

RM provided an update on IMCA membership (figures reported as at approximately two weeks prior): 838 members in total; 668 current/renewed. The ROV category was reported as approximately 300.

RM advised that the ROV Committee may expand by up to four additional members, subject to a vote by Chair and Vice Chair, to bring in required skills/technology representation.

5 IMCA updates and publications

Guidance register: RM highlighted the IMCA guidance register/master document register as the primary reference for newly issued documents and current status of guidance, recommended practices and codes of practice.

Board/organisation: A Board meeting was noted as occurring in March (timing referenced as “today or tomorrow”). Updates will be shared following the meeting.

Staffing changes (noted): Mark Holmes appointed Safety & Security Manager (HSS); Stuart Walter appointed Head of Technical & Safety (joining 23 March); Jo Deal appointed Head of Membership; Josh Purnell appointed Events Manager; Mark Ford noted as retiring, with interim cover to be confirmed.

Competence & Training governance: RM noted stepping down from the TA role for C&T, with Rhys Jones taking the role as IMCA Head of Competence & Training; RM remains the focal point for ROV competence and training items.

Environment & Sustainability: 2026 focus areas noted included collaboration/learning opportunities, webinars and workshops (including biodiversity/offshore operations), and monitoring legislation.

Events/webinars: Members were reminded of upcoming IMCA webinars (including automation/autonomy) and regional meeting opportunities (including Europe & Africa regional meeting in Lagos on 6 August). A Global Summit information release was anticipated in early April with a call for items relating to ROV to be forwarded to the committee.

6 Competence, training and audit initiatives (ECMID / RSI)

IMCA R006 / ECMID: Rene Van Der Starre advised comments had been received on R006 and requested a meeting to review them. RM confirmed a review meeting would be arranged.

Mike Leijerzapf raised the topic of digitising audits and clarified that company-specific additional questions can be maintained separately; relevant questions can be proposed to IMCA for consideration. It was confirmed that use of the ECMID system remains voluntary.

ROV System Inspector (RSI) scheme: RM outlined the staged approach for an experienced practitioner scheme and trainee pathway, including documentation readiness and the prerequisite to develop sufficient exam questions before launch. Examination locations/process would follow established IMCA models (e.g., DP/diving). RM advised progress of approximately 100 draft questions and answers.

7 Document reviews and work group updates

7.1 R009 (ROV systems – mobilisation)

Darren Shannon reported that R009 had undergone a refresh incorporating committee comments, updating links and references, and removing duplications. Publication was anticipated for April. Members were asked to review Pre published version available in WG folder.

7.2 R023 (AUV audit)

Graeme Russell advised work is progressing to finalise comments and question sets. Key outstanding work includes defining/assessing autonomy levels and addressing unsupervised AUV considerations (including COLREGs implications). The initial release is expected to focus on supervised AUVs, with unsupervised elements potentially addressed as a later phase.

RM noted the current working documents are held in the document review folder, including the AUV audit categorisation spreadsheet, and that the next working meeting was scheduled for 27 March.

7.3 R019 (environmentally acceptable lubricants / EAHF)

Darren Shannon advised the work group intends to restart review of comments and begin building the document following prior meetings and resource changes. RM proposed scheduling a meeting in early April (options discussed: 31 March–3 April or 7–9 April) and invited additional participation.

7.4 R024 (main lift umbilicals) and MRT work

Rene Van Der Starre provided an update on MRT-related work, including engagement with a company (LRM) and an umbilical manufacturer. The work group is reviewing IMCA document R011 (noting it is written for wire ropes rather than umbilicals) to determine appropriate wording changes and then develop improved content for R024, including MRT techniques, retirement criteria, equipment selection and set-up.

7.5 RL011 (lifting) – interface with R024/MRT

Rene Van Der Starre noted comments entered against RL011, including concerns regarding annual testing requirements, NDE requirements, and the prioritisation of MRT versus destructive testing. RM advised LR011 review would follow once the R024/MRT work is sufficiently progressed, to ensure alignment and to provide consolidated feedback to the Lifting & Rigging group. Members were encouraged to add comments in SharePoint.

7.6 New work item – UXO guidance

RM advised that a UXO guidance work item is being prepared, with background material collated in a “Guidance for UXO Operations” folder (examples noted included target investigation and safe operations/removal material). Members were asked to contribute relevant company procedures (for review purposes) and to propose names for participation, with the intent to include representatives from ROV, Diving, Survey and Marine.

7.7 Technical discussion – umbilical excursion charts and clearance to thrusters/divers

Sabine Smith raised an increase in audit queries regarding “umbilical clearance/excursion charts” (including minimum distances to thrusters/divers). Members discussed that prescribing fixed minimum distances in guidance can be problematic due to the wide range of vessels, launch arrangements (TMS/free-flying), water depth, current and task requirements.

Conclusion: The committee reiterated that decisions should be made via task-specific risk assessment and operational planning (including management of change), rather than adopting universal minimum distance values. The group noted that charts/drawings can be vessel-specific aids, but cannot capture all operational variables.

7.8 Work group participation and future agenda topics

The Vice Chair encouraged members to propose new topics and to increase participation in work groups. RM confirmed agenda items can be added via member-provided slides and that a short member presentation slot will be included in future meetings.

Proposed presentations/topics for next meeting: (1) HD cameras and formats (including IP cameras) – Rene Van Der Starre; (2) EHD ROV / ELARS – Mike Leijerzapf; (3) AI for maintenance (PMS) – Darren Shannon; (4) AI for fault analysis of offshore engineering logs – Tommy Adebayo (subject to internal approval); (5) Black Sea H₂S operating environment – Rene Van Der Starre.

Bruce MacAngus requested visibility of current work groups and expressed interest in joining. RM outlined active work groups (R023, R019, R024/MRT) and advised members to contact RM to be added to invitations.

8 Unminuted Safety Discussion

RM and Chair gave the committee a chance to discuss any safety topics that they found relevant and the offer to pause transcript was put forward while the committee undertook the safety discussion.

9 Summary of action items

Action	Responsible	Target
Send 2026 Q1 minutes to Chair for signature	RM	Completed
Arrange a review meeting to go through received comments on IMCA R006.	RM/RVDS	To be scheduled (April)
Issue meeting poll/options to schedule R019 work group meeting (early April options discussed).	RM	April 2026
Members to review R009 and provide any feedback.	All	publication (target April 2026)
Contribute company UXO procedures/guidance (for review purposes) to support formation of New UXO work group.	All (via TA)	Before UXO work group kick-off
Nominate participants for New UXO work group (ROV/Diving/Survey/Marine representation).	All	Before UXO work group kick-off
Provide slides (or outline) for agreed member presentations for the next committee meeting.	All	Prior to next meeting
Circulate date/time options (poll) for Q2/Q3/Q4 committee meetings based on agreed week ranges.	RM	Completed

10 Date and location of next meetings

2026 Q2: **June 15th - 19th Date and Time TBC.** UK - Online

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Signed as a true record

Name

Date