

New Vice President for AIRTO

Peter French, Chief Executive of BMT Group, has been appointed by the Board of AIRTO to the role of Vice President, with immediate effect.

Peter has served as BMT's Chief Executive since 2005, and has served on the AIRTO Board as a Director since March 2007. BMT Group, which has an annual turnover of £142million, is an international design, engineering and risk management consultancy, working principally in the defence, energy and environment, marine risk and insurance, maritime transport and ports and logistics sectors. BMT has been a long standing member of AIRTO having joined in 1986.

AIRTO - The Association for Independent Research and Technology Organisations – is the foremost membership body for organisations operating in the UK's intermediate research and technology sector. The role of Vice President, which is a non-executive position, will involve working closely alongside AIRTO's President, Chairman and Operations Director to support strategic initiatives to build the profile of the intermediate research and technology sector with government, policy makers and wider industry. In addition Peter will provide important support nurture the future direction of AIRTO's Interest Groups – a key vehicle for facilitating networking and benchmarking amongst senior business leaders within the AIRTO community.

Peter graduated from Manchester University in 1972 as a maritime civil engineer, and during his career he has undertaken a diverse range of projects, working in Europe, Africa, India, China and the Asia Pacific region. These projects encompassed important transport links, new naval dockyards, coastal developments and a variety of major ports and terminals which have entailed the assessment of marine impacts, the derivation of traffic forecasts, detailed planning and design of facilities, construction supervision, financial modelling and privatisation studies.

Peter is also Chairman of the Society of Maritime Industries, a Vice President of European Co-operation in Maritime Research, a Board member of International Transport Intermediaries Club Ltd., a member of the Business Advisory Board of Living with Environmental Change and of the Advisory Board of the University of Southampton's School of Engineering Sciences. He is a Fellow and currently President of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineers and a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Commenting on his appointment as Vice President, Peter French said:

"I am delighted to be taking on this role for AIRTO, and look forward to working alongside Professor Brook as President, to build upon the excellent progress made recently in promoting the intermediate research and technology sector on behalf our members."



Mr Peter French, Chief Executive, BMT Group

Neil Sanderson, AIRTO's Chairman, commented:

“Peter has been a longstanding supporter of AIRTO’s work through his involvement in the Board, and has a wealth of valuable leadership experience in other membership organisations – I believe he will be a great asset in helping to drive forward AIRTO’s mission”.

Notes to Editors:

AIRTO – The Association for Independent Research and Technology Organisations – is the foremost membership body for organisations operating in the UK’s intermediate research and technology sector. AIRTO’s members deliver vital innovation and knowledge transfer services which include applied and collaborative R&D, frequently in conjunction with universities, consultancy, technology validation and testing, incubation of commercialisation opportunities and early stage financing. AIRTO members have a combined turnover of over £2Bn from clients both at home and outside the UK, and employ over 20,000 scientists, technologists and engineers.

AIRTO members include commercial companies, Research and Technology Organisations, Research Associations and selected research and technology exploitation offices from universities, operating at the interface between academia and industry. Most of AIRTO’s members operate in the important space between pure research and the pull of the market for commoditisation of knowledge into new products and services.

AIRTO exists to assist members network and engage collectively with government and policy makers in the UK’s R&D landscape on matters of mutual interest, including research policy, innovation strategy, encouraging enterprise and developing the commercial take up of scientific and technological advances. AIRTO works to influence and improve the strategy and climate for innovation for our Members by forging links and progressing dialogue with key decision makers in government and industry across technology intensive sectors. Our interests cover the activities of the Research Councils, the TSB, the European Commission and a number of UK Government Departments, as well as topics such as the use of public procurement to support innovation, challenge led research, skills provision, support schemes such as SBRI and those that deal with contract and collaborative R&D.

BMT Group – BMT is an international design, engineering and risk management consultancy, working principally in the defence, energy and environment, marine risk and insurance, maritime transport and ports and logistics sectors.

BMT invests significantly in research. Its customers are served through a network of international subsidiary companies. The group’s assets are held in beneficial ownership for its staff.

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