

The Commercial Boat Operators Association welcomes leading transport economist Mike Garratt as its new President

The Commercial Boat Operators Association (CBOA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Garratt as the Association's new President. Mike succeeds our long serving President Dr David Quarmby CBE, who has agreed to become one of the two Vice President of our Association.

On May 11th the CBOA held an EGM for our members to formally elect Mike as our new President. The meeting was also an opportunity to pay tribute and to thank outgoing President David Quarmby for massive contribution to the CBOA over the last 8 years.

Our new President is currently Chairman of internationally renowned transport economists MDS Transmodal Ltd. and has spent the over 50 years employed in transport sector, starting as a local government transport modeller before spending 12 years as a researcher & lecturer in Maritime Transport at Leicester and Liverpool Universities.

In 1982 Mike established the transport consultancy MDS Transmodal, which has specialised in the development of databases, models and marketing studies in the freight transport sector.

MDS Transmodal have been responsible for national port and rail freight forecasts, for waterborne freight studies for the Department for Transport and for a wide range of port and logistics studies for clients the UK and abroad including the OECD and the World Bank. MDS Transmodal currently advises National Highways, Network Rail, the Office of Rail and Road, the Department for Transport and many sub national transport bodies.

Mike has a passion and a long history of support for inland waterway freight, having chaired the pressure group Sea & Water and more recently been a member of The Canal & River Trust's (CRT) Freight Advisory Group and its successor CRT's Freight Steering Group.

CBOA Chairman David Lowe said "We are delighted that Mike has agreed to take on the role of CBOA President, at what is a very important and exciting time for our sector. Mike's knowledge of the freight and logistics is second to none and knowing Mike for over 20 years I have experienced first-hand his interest and passion for freight carriage on the UK's commercial inland waterways, and his belief that they have the potential to play an important role as part of a fully sustainable and integrated freight transport system.

Mike's expertise and wisdom will be of great benefit to the Association as we seek to support our member companies and influence decision makers at all levels to do what they can to attract and facilitate more tonnage to the commercial inland waterways."

ENDS...

Notes to Editors:

The Commercial Boat Operators Association (CBOA)

The Commercial Boat Operators Association (CBOA) is the national trade organisation for the inland waterways freight industry. We have nearly 100 members, including associates.

Our members operate craft with carrying capacity between 2,700 tonnes and 25 tonnes on the tidal estuaries and the canals and rivers linked to them.

Cargoes carried include aggregates, oil products, grain, steel industry materials and products, construction materials, containers, residual domestic waste, abnormal indivisible loads and bagged domestic coal and other fuels.