

**MEDIA RELEASE
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WISTA Australia and AIMS forge partnership to promote diversity and professional excellence in maritime sector

TWO prominent maritime organisations are joining forces to encourage greater participation of women in the marine surveying sector.

The Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) Australia , and the Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS) today announced their organisations have negotiated a first-time partnership.

WISTA Australia President and Chair Donna Jones said the partnership will help create a more diverse, resilient and innovative marine surveyor sector in Australia.

'This collaboration aims to foster talent development and professional excellence within the maritime industry,' Donna said.

'Both organisations are committed to building a sustainable and inclusive maritime sector driven by innovation, equity and sound leadership.'

AIMS Chair Eric McIlwain said the collaboration was an opportunity to engage and work across industry to encourage more women in the maritime sector to consider a career as a marine surveyor.

'AIMS supports a focus on encouraging women in the maritime sector to seriously consider a career pathway as a marine surveyor,' Eric said.

They said key areas of collaboration include the following.

- Inclusion
Joint initiatives to increase female participation in marine surveying and related professions.
- Professional Development
Collaborative training programs, workshops, mentorship opportunities and addressing skill shortages.
- Networking and Events
Co-hosting networking events and providing sponsorship opportunities at conferences and forums.
- Advocacy and Awareness
Campaigns and publications to promote diversity and raise awareness of its importance.

They said both organisations had made the following commitments.

- WISTA Australia
Sharing AIMS information to its member network, promoting AIMS events, and supporting AIMS initiatives with expertise and resources.

- AIMS
Supporting WISTA programs, promoting their events, and providing resources for shared initiatives.

Background

The Women's International Shipping and Trading Association Australia is part of WISTA International, which supports a vibrant network of professionals across the maritime industry and operating in 62 countries. Celebrating over 50 years of operation, WISTA Australia's vision is to empower women in maritime by fostering diversity, leadership and innovation. Its mission focuses on attracting and empowering women through mentorship, networking and educational opportunities, enhancing their ability to lead with confidence and purpose.

The AIMS is the peak industry body for marine surveyors in Australasia, and it is the largest marine surveyor association in the Southern Hemisphere. AIMS has members in all States and Territories of Australia as well as New Zealand, the Asia and South Pacific regions.

Media contacts: Donna Jones, President and Chair, WISTA Australia | M: 0427 819 450 | E: Donna.Jones@ashevilleconsultinggroup.com

Eric McIlwain, Chair, AIMS | M: 0490 106 242 | eric.mcilwain@hastingsme.com.au