



AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE
OF MARINE SURVEYORS

Shipshape

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**WORLD'S LARGEST BATTERY-ELECTRIC SHIP
POWERS UP IN TASMANIA**

Artificial intelligence – science fiction turning into reality

SCIENCE fiction has always intrigued and amazed the world with its vision of a utopian future, free of war, disease and suffering, as well as the darker side of machines enslaving humanity.

From Jules Verne to Fritz Lang, from *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* to *Star Trek* and *The Jetsons*, science fiction has part-excited and part-terrified us, and made us wonder what the future has in store. Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is one area of science fiction that is now becoming a distinct reality.

AI and its possibilities are fast being enmeshed into our everyday lives at an exponential rate.

What AI can do for us as a society and as individuals seems to be only limited by our imagination. If science fiction is any indicator of what the future will bring, AI has the potential to fundamentally change the way we live and work, depending on who chooses its direction and application.

For those of us in the marine surveying work, we would look at AI and ask the most basic of questions: “Well, how does it help me?” If we take AI’s most basic of functions, that of accessing knowledge, it can greatly assist a marine surveyor to navigate the plethora of legislation and regulations that we are required to interpret and ensure compliance with.

Marine surveyors work across a range of sub-disciplines: cargo-handling; damage assessment and investigation; statutory surveys ... the list goes on. Being able to consistently stay abreast of the regulations covering each area, including changes to these regulations, and the cost of such vigilance (both in terms of cost of resources and time), can put an enormous pressure on business owners, particularly single and small operators.

Having access to a secure and trusted platform can greatly increase the productivity of operating in the marine surveying space but also improve the outcome for our clients by reducing the cost of any mistakes made during the course of our endeavours.

AI offers enormous potential to improve the quality of the service that surveyors provide to their client. As with all advances in technology, there will be challenges that will alter how work is undertaken and which will have a positive or negative impact on each individual business.

How we as surveyors and, importantly, business operators engage with this change will determine



whether AI is a success and improves our profitability or a major threat to how we operate as professionals.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has been undertaking a review of its Domestic Commercial Vessel (DCV) Surveyor Accreditation Scheme over the past eight months with the Industry Reference Group (IRG). The DCV Surveyor scheme has been in place since 2015, when AMSA assumed the role of National Regulator for all DCVs in Australia.

The IRG consisted of AMSA representatives and DCV surveyors. The review is a whole-of-scheme review covering survey categories, accreditation tiers, accreditation categories, surveyor qualifications and expertise, issuance of certificates of survey, training of new surveyors, WHS requirements, plan approvals oversight, professional organisations, and CPD and professional indemnity and quality assurance.

This broad-ranging review will see a significant upgrade of the current SAGM Part 1 document as well as part of SAGM Part 2.

Members who operate in the DCV space are encouraged to engage in the review process when a consultation paper is released, later in the year, putting forward a raft of changes for consideration.

Eric McIlwain
Chair of the AIMS Board