



Recruitment Pack

Director of MASG, MSTG and SMIFutures

Society of Maritime Industries

August 2026

Job Advert

About the role

SMI is seeking a Director to provide strategic leadership for three important areas of SMI activity:

- Marine Science and Technology Group (MSTG)
- Maritime Autonomous Systems Group (MASG)
- SMIFutures, SMI's early careers and skills initiative

The role brings together industry, government, academia and future talent to support innovation, business growth, policy development, skills and workforce priorities across the UK maritime sector.

The successful candidate will act as a senior convenor and ambassador for SMI, delivering practical programmes, partnerships and initiatives that create clear value for members and support the UK's maritime engineering, science and technology community.

Candidate specification

The ideal candidate will demonstrate:

- A strong working knowledge of the maritime sector, with an interest in marine science, autonomy, innovation, skills and future workforce development.
- A confident, personable approach and the ability to engage senior leaders across industry, government, academia and strategic partner organisations.
- Excellent communication skills, including public speaking, writing, stakeholder briefings and strategic communications.
- Experience of delivering events, programmes, partnerships or member-facing initiatives from concept through to completion.
- Commercial awareness, including the ability to identify sponsorship, partnership and funded-project opportunities.
- Strong organisational skills, with the ability to manage multiple priorities, council workplans, reporting requirements and member engagement activity.
- A practical, hands-on approach and a commitment to delivering clear value for members.

Dear Applicant

Director of MASG, MSTG and SMIFutures

Thank you for your interest in this position. Enclosed is the information you require to assist you in applying for the role.

To apply please:

- Provide an up-to-date CV which shows your full career history with any breaks explained. We recommend that this is no longer than three pages.
- Write a covering letter of one page summarising how you meet the skills, knowledge and experience required for the role.
- Provide your salary expectation or current level of salary package.
- Indicate your availability for interview. First interview will be via Teams.
- A second interview will also be undertaken as part of the process.

Please ensure your full name is on all documents and saved as name/CV/supporting statement. Applications may not be considered unless all requested documents are provided.

- For further information or to discuss the role, please contact Tom Chant tom.chant@maritimeindustries.org
- Deadline for applications: 9 September 2026
- First interviews: approx. week commencing 21 September 2026

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Chant MBE

Chief Executive

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1. About the Society of Maritime Industries

The Society of Maritime Industries (SMI) is the trade association for the UK's maritime engineering, science and technology community. We represent organisations across the maritime supply chain, from major prime contractors and shipbuilders to specialist SMEs, technology companies, research organisations and universities.

We help members grow their business, influence policy, raise their profile and build valuable connections. Through events, trade missions, innovation programmes and industry engagement activities, we bring together industry, government and academia to support growth, collaboration and innovation across UK maritime.

SMI is a not-for-profit organisation governed by a Board of Directors elected from the membership, with member interests represented through six specialist councils covering the key sectors of the UK maritime industry.

Further information can be found on our website: www.maritimeindustries.org

2. Job Description

Job title: Director of MASG, MSTG and SMIFutures

Role

The Director provides strategic leadership for the Marine Science and Technology Group (MSTG), Maritime Autonomous Systems Group (MASG) and SMIFutures. The role brings together industry, government, academia and future talent to support innovation, business growth, policy development, skills and workforce priorities across the UK maritime sector. The Director acts as a senior convenor and ambassador for SMI, delivering practical programmes, partnerships and initiatives that create clear value for members and support the UK's maritime engineering, science and technology community.

Details on all the SMI specialist groups can be found online at [SMI specialist sectors](#)

Accountability

The Director reports to the SMI Chief Executive as line manager. The Director will also work closely with the chairs of the relevant Councils to support administration, member engagement and service delivery, within the resources agreed by the SMI Board. The title "Director" reflects the seniority of the role within SMI and does not constitute appointment as a Companies House director or member of the SMI Board.

Duties and Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership and Industry Representation

- Provide strategic leadership for MASG, MSTG and SMIFutures, developing and delivering work programmes aligned with member priorities, industry needs and SMI's strategic objectives.
- Identify emerging opportunities, challenges, technologies and policy developments affecting members, ensuring these are communicated and reflected in group priorities and activities.
- Support the development of industry positions, consultation responses and policy recommendations where appropriate.
- Act as a visible ambassador for SMI, delivering thought leadership, strategic communications, public speaking and media engagement to raise the profile and influence of the Society and its specialist groups.
- Represent SMI on relevant external bodies, examples include the MAS Regulatory Working Group and NOC Innovation Centre External Advisory Group.
- Attend the SMI Board and be prepared to report on the activities of the relevant Councils if the Council chair is unavailable.
- Participate as a full member of the SMI Executive Management Committee.
- Build and maintain relationships with senior leaders across industry, government, academia and strategic partners.
- Lead engagement with government departments, regulators and industry bodies to influence policy and industry priorities.
- Represent member interests and perspectives across industry, government and stakeholder groups, acting as a trusted convenor for collaboration and engagement.

Membership Growth, Partnerships and Collaboration

- Develop and implement initiatives to increase membership, engagement and retention across MASG, MSTG and SMIFutures.
- Ensure members derive clear value from participation through networking opportunities, knowledge exchange, business development support, market intelligence and collaborative projects.
- Facilitate partnerships, introductions and collaborative initiatives that create value for members and strengthen the UK maritime sector.
- Maintain accurate member and stakeholder data through SMI's CRM and business systems to support member engagement, business development and organisational effectiveness.

Events, Programmes and Industry Engagement

- Deliver events and industry engagement activities from concept to completion, overseeing registrations, delegate communications, logistics, sponsorship, marketing and delivery to maximise member value and make effective use of internal and external resources.
- Develop new initiatives, collaborative projects and cross-sector programmes that support innovation, skills, workforce development and business growth.
- Secure sponsorship, stakeholder commitment and strategic partnerships to maximise the reach, impact and sustainability of SMI activities.
- Represent SMI in the development and delivery of collaborative industry programmes and initiatives.
- Lead the development, delivery and growth of conferences, exhibitions, trade missions, workshops and industry engagement activities.

Skills, Careers and Future Workforce Development

- Lead the development and delivery of SMIFutures as SMI's early careers and skills initiative.
- Organise and deliver the Marine Autonomy Challenge, SMI's biennial student competition.
- Promote careers within the maritime sector and support the attraction, development and retention of future talent.
- Work with industry, education providers and government stakeholders to address skills gaps and workforce challenges.
- Develop initiatives that support professional development, diversity of thought, talent pipelines and increased awareness of maritime career opportunities.

Commercial Development and Income Generation

- Identify and develop opportunities for commercial partnerships, sponsorship, funded projects and collaborative initiatives that support the objectives of SMI and its specialist groups.
- Contribute to annual business planning, budgeting and financial performance, ensuring activities are delivered within agreed resources.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen the profile, influence and long-term sustainability of SMI's specialist groups and the wider SMI.

Governance and Operational Leadership

- Develop annual objectives and work plans for MASG, MSTG and SMIFutures, monitoring delivery against agreed outcomes.
- Ensure effective governance, communication and member engagement across the specialist groups, including meetings, reporting, records and dissemination of information.

- Lead and support stakeholder groups, committees and working groups, ensuring effective governance, communication and delivery.
- Prepare reports, briefing papers and updates for Council meetings, the SMI Board and external stakeholders as required.
- Ensure that Council meeting frequency, and format, engage the full membership, supporting these with appropriate papers and minutes of previous meetings.
- Ensure minutes of the Council meetings are made available to the wider SMI membership on the SMI password protected website once the minutes have been ratified by the appropriate Council.
- Provide news, reports and updates for the relevant Councils and for the SMI website as required.
- Provide professional advice and market intelligence to SMI members on industry developments, international markets, regulations and standards affecting their businesses.
- Provide support and guidance to SMI colleagues on the effective use of business systems, software applications, CRM platforms and digital tools, helping to resolve issues and improve organisational efficiency.
- Take ownership of the specialist groups' digital platforms and communications, proactively maintaining websites, promoting activities and ensuring members have access to current and relevant information, resources and opportunities.

Additional requirements

- The role requires regular travel throughout the UK and occasional international travel to support meetings, conferences, exhibitions, trade missions and stakeholder engagement activities.
- The postholder will be expected to work flexibly, including attendance at early morning, evening and occasional weekend meetings, events and industry functions as required.
- Due to the nature of the role, additional hours may be required to support event delivery, member engagement activities and key business priorities.
- The role combines strategic leadership with hands-on delivery and requires the ability to manage multiple priorities simultaneously whilst maintaining high standards of service to members and stakeholders.

Candidate competencies

- Good working knowledge of the maritime sector and the policy, technology and business issues affecting UK maritime engineering, science and technology.
- Credible and confident with senior stakeholders, including industry leaders, government, regulators, academia and partner organisations.
- Able to convene people around practical programmes, collaborative projects and clear member outcomes.
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including reports, briefings, public speaking and strategic member communications.
- Commercially aware, with experience of sponsorship, partnerships, budgets or project income generation.
- Organised and delivery-focused, with the ability to manage multiple priorities, deadlines and workstreams.
- Comfortable using Microsoft Office, CRM systems and digital platforms as part of routine business delivery.
- Willing to undertake UK and occasional international travel, with flexibility to support events outside standard office hours.

The Society reserves the right to amend this job description as necessary, after consultation with the postholder, to reflect changes in or to the job.

3. Terms and Conditions of Employment

(For information purposes only)

Position	Director of MASG, MSTG and SMIFutures
Contract	Permanent (full time)
Location	28-29 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AY, although the position involves UK and occasional international travel.
Hours of work	Monday to Friday, 0900 to 1700, with one hour break for lunch each day. Flexibility will be required to support events, meetings and stakeholder activity.
Remuneration	Subject to negotiation and dependent on experience and work pattern.
Holidays	25 days plus normal public holidays. SMI is closed for the three days between Christmas and New Year.
Other benefits	Sickness pay scheme and interest-free season ticket loan once a probationary period of three months has been satisfactorily completed.
References	All references will be taken up before an offer for employment can be confirmed as final.