



James C. Vavasour
Group Marine Director/President
MatthewsDaniel Americas

James joined MatthewsDaniel in 2003, and is President of our Americas Region. In his operational role as Group Marine Director, he has overall responsibility for our marine services worldwide and manages technical and procedural review of major offshore installation projects, heavy-lift transports, and wet tows for the entire MatthewsDaniel group internationally. A graduate Naval Architect and a Texas licensed adjuster, he is also a member of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects and Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. A recognizable face in the international insurance market, James serves on the organizing committee for the Houston Marine Insurance Seminar and is a founding member of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors acting as a liaison to the Joint Rig Committee. As an author, James is a regular presenter at major international conferences and has been published many times in the technical press. James is currently Chair of SOMWS.



Captain Stephen Norman
Senior Business Development Manager
DNV
SOMWS Chairman

Stephen is a Master Mariner with 20 years of operational and command experience in the Royal and Merchant Navy prior to moving ashore with Noble Denton marine services, part of DNV. Stephen sits on the Technical Standards Committee for DNV's Marine Warranty Standards and has been working extensively with the assurance of large-scale offshore construction, transportation and decommissioning projects. He is a founder Director of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors (SOMWS) as well as sitting on the IMCA Renewables Committee. Passionate on the role of marine warranty in the risk reduction process he has driven strategic engagement for integrated third-party assurance to ensure connected risk is fully understood and mitigations fully realised. More recently this has included extensive work with cyber risk and the use of big data and digitalisation. Stephen has regular liaison with the JRC regarding Technical Standards. Stephen is currently the Vice Chair of SOMWS and sits on the Standards Committee.



John Munnings-Tomes
Chief Risk Engineer
Marine & Energy International - The Hartford

After graduating in 1985, John has spent his career in the oil and gas sector with roles including process design, project management, process operations, and risk consulting. He has particular interest in lessons learned from the incidents he sees as part of his functional role, and their wider communication to industry, and particularly the importance of process safety culture within an organisation.



S. Douglas Devoy
Sr. Marine and Engineering Consultant
MatthewsDaniel Company

Doug joined MatthewsDaniel in 1981 and is currently a Sr. Marine and Engineering consultant to the company. He has held a number of positions within the company including President of the Americas and Group Marine Director. A graduate of Texas A&M University in Marine Engineering he also attended Graduate Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Texas licensed adjuster, and he is a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

A fellow of the IChemE, John is also the IChemE Trustee on The Hazards Forum, and is mindful of the need to share experience and process safety lessons across industries and engineering disciplines. He has been a Registered Safety Professional since 2000. He has written a number of process safety focussed guidelines for both the Upstream and Downstream Energy Insurance sectors, including co-authoring the Joint Rig Committee (JRC) Rig Location & Move Guidelines and Well Review Guidelines. John has been a JRC appointed Director of SOMWS since August 2020.

He is the creator of program Preload and Executive Program Preload Risk minimization program for placing jack up rigs on location. He is a founding member of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors. He has published numerous papers at the Offshore Technology Conference and other technical forums.



Captain Vishal S. Sharma
Managing Director
Sterling Technical Services India Private Limited

Vishal is a founder Director of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors (SOMWS) and is one among the panel of SOMWS Screening Committee. He is a Master Mariner and also holds a Diploma in Marine Surveying (London), specializing in Marine Warranty Surveys / Mobile Offshore Units, has over two decades' experience in the Marine and Offshore industry. Having started his MWS career with Falconer Bryan and associates, which culminated as a merged entity in Aqualis Braemar, Vishal then went on to co-found Sterling Technical Services and along the way has handled several Offshore Construction Projects including Platform installations, floatover installations, various subsea installations including risers, pipeline & flexible installations. He has managed several Project Cargo shipments for various Mega Projects globally. Vishal is also experienced in Rig Moves as both MWS and as Rig Mover. He has delivered several technical talks related to Marine Warranty Services in various reputed forums and conferences such as Offshore Technology Conference, Lloyd's etc.



Chan Yew Wah, Michael
Managing Director
Sterling Technical Services Singapore

Chan Yew Wah, Michael is a founder Director of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors (SOMWS). He is a graduate Naval Architect from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne with a B.Sc (Hons) and M.Sc in Marine Technology. Michael is also a Member of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects and a Chartered Engineer (CEng). Upon graduation in 1978, he started in the industry as a ship designer with Napier Company (Arbroath), Kenton Marine (Singapore) and Ulstein Group Singapore. He started his offshore career in 1985 with McDermott, performing installation engineering and subsequently moving onto his MWS career in 1988 by joining Falconer Bryan & Associates, becoming technical/managing director in 1995. After the takeover of Falconer, Bryan & Associates by Braemar Shipping Services, he became the Group Managing Director of the Braemar Technical Services Division in 2010. Michael joined Sterling Technical Services Singapore in August 2020 as Managing Director of the Singapore office. Michael has handled detailed design and conversion of numerous offshore vessels (pipelay vessels, tender vessels, anchor handling tugs, Ulstein UT vessels), offshore installation engineering projects, offshore construction projects including platform installations, floatover installations, FPSO installations, subsea installations including risers, pipeline & flexible installations.



David Ballands
Regional Director
ABL



Jonathan Vine
Marine Manager
Global Maritime Consultancy Ltd



Aureliano Schirripa
Energy Technical Director
ABL



Ekkehard Stade
Director Marine Services
Global Maritime Group

Ekkehard joined Global Maritime in 2008 after almost 20 years active service in the Maritime Industry. He is a Master Mariner, DPO and holds a Master's Degree from City University London in Maritime Operations and Management, with Distinction. Since transferring to shore based activities and working as a consultant, he was involved in some high risk projects in the energy sector, including harsh environment drilling and subsea construction. A large variety of offshore renewable and infrastructure projects, vessel commissioning and conversion. Before being called up to serve as the Director for Marine Services in the Global Maritime Group he built up the presence in Germany, contributed to warranty and dynamic positioning projects worldwide. Besides being on the SOMWS BoD he also works on the IMCA Europe and Africa Section Committee.



Sean Hogue
Vice President - Marine Assurance
Baker Marine Solutions



Ian Stewart
Lead Naval Architect
Marine Technical Limits Ltd.