



MARITIME UK
SOLENT

Maritime UK Solent Non-Executive Director

Candidate Information Pack

April 2024

About Us

Our ambition is for the Solent to be known globally for maritime excellence, enabling maritime businesses and organisations operating in the Solent to benefit from the Solent brand and make the Solent the first choice for maritime investment and collaboration.

The Solent Maritime Cluster is exceptional. It has a breadth of maritime excellence that is unsurpassed globally with world-leading capability across Ports and Shipping, Maritime Defence, Training, Academia and Research, Shipbuilding, Leisure Marine, Heritage and Tourism, Professional Services and Regulation. Quite simply, the Solent has it all, and all this activity takes place in a relatively small geographic area, anchored around south Hampshire and the two port cities of Southampton and Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight.

The maritime sector contributes around 25% (£7.7bn) of the total economic output of the local economy and is, without question, the area's core sector - just as it has been throughout history. The area has always been at the forefront of change and innovation in maritime, and this continues today. We have businesses imagining and commercialising the maritime sector of tomorrow, fuelled by the talent pipeline trained at our schools, and Further and Higher Education Institutions.

The local maritime network is incredibly diverse, and Maritime UK Solent Limited has been established as an industry-led body to promote this thriving maritime sector locally. Launched in 2019 to provide the voice of the maritime sector in the Solent, it operates within the family of Maritime UK and enables the regional maritime sector to directly influence national maritime decision-making and leadership while providing a direct route to Government. Through our work we provide leadership, champion, and support the growth of the sector - ensuring the Solent maintains its position as the world's premier maritime cluster.

Maritime UK Solent is in a unique position in that it is directly linked to Maritime UK, which is the collective voice for the UK's maritime industries and has been recognised by Government as the private sector partnership that it will work with to provide an enabling environment within which innovation and business can flourish. MUK Solent is a member of Maritime UK, with our Chair being a Non-Executive Director of Maritime UK and our executive taking active roles in the wider Maritime UK working groups and regional maritime cluster council.

Our first 2 years of operation have been more successful than we could have imagined. We have hosted a programme of network meetings through which we have connected the thousands of people from across the sector, we have connected Solent maritime businesses to the National Shipbuilding Office, the Department for Transport, UK SHORE, and Innovate UK to access funding opportunities, connected businesses to research and knowledge opportunities across our local Universities, we have signed collaboration agreements with Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia and Turku Business Region in Finland, and taken a delegation from the Solent to Halifax, Nova Scotia in the autumn of 2023, and promoted the Solent maritime cluster at MIPIM 2024. We have worked with Connected Places Catapult and the Royal Navy to identify our region's maritime innovation strengths, and, of course, hosted the Maritime UK Solent Awards, where we see the very best of our maritime sector recognised each year.

Through strong ties with HM Government and Maritime UK, Maritime UK Solent nurtures maritime success in central southern England. We champion local success worldwide, have representation at maritime events and trade missions, and we enable our partners to target growth and win globally.

The future is exciting and this is your opportunity to help us lead, champion and grow the local Maritime sector. Government have recently announced a new £1m fund to support the development of maritime cluster organisations, to which we have submitted an ambitious application to help us grow and become a financially self sufficient organisation.

We are also in commencing a period of exciting change as we introduce a paid membership model so that we can both do more to support the area's maritime sector and underpin a move to financial self-sustainability.

Maritime UK Solent has been incorporated as a private company, limited by guarantee. Details on the governance arrangements for the Company are set out in the Company's Articles of Association, which are available here: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/13532228/filing-history>

In addition to operating within its Articles of Association and Company law, Maritime UK Solent plays a key role in supporting the area to secure significant public funding and, as a result, also operates within the context of public funding frameworks, including the National Local Growth Assurance Framework: <https://bit.ly/49A81T6>

Portsmouth City Council is the Accountable Body for Maritime UK Solent and in this role is accountable for the proper use and administration of funding, all of which fall under the annual audit of the local authority's accounts, and for ensuring that decisions are made in accordance with the assurance framework.

Further information on Maritime UK Solent Limited [can be found here](#).

The Role

The leadership that the Maritime UK Solent Board provides is central to the success of the business. We are seeking to recruit at least one independent industry expert representative, who can bring energy and passion to act as a champion for the area's economic success.

We are looking for at least one of our new Board directors to be drawn from the local SME community and are particularly keen to encourage applications from those with expertise in the areas of either Marine, Green Shipping or maritime innovation. We are also keen to strengthen the Board with a director that has senior finance leadership within a maritime organisation.

Applications are encouraged from credible people who can see the bigger strategic picture, offer challenge and insight and genuinely input into the process of advancing Maritime UK Solent's agenda of fostering real and positive change in the region for the ultimate benefit of all. Strong

partnership skills are essential, and candidates will need to be collegiate and collaborative in their style and approach. The successful candidate must have substantial knowledge and/or experience of the local maritime sector, through a strong and proven track record of leadership at a senior level in the sector and a demonstrable commitment to championing, leading and growing the maritime economy.

You must be working for a private sector business, currently operating within the local maritime sector, and you will be expected to display the highest levels of integrity and honesty. In line with best practice set out in the UK Corporate Governance Code¹, we are seeking to appoint a truly independent non-executive director to join the MUK Solent Board. Candidates are asked to consider this definition carefully in advance of submitting an application.

It is expected that you will offer one day per month on average and should have sufficient time to meet your director responsibilities.

Board Members require a strong and detailed appreciation of, and interest in, the strategic issues relating to, and drivers of, the Maritime economy and the various opportunities and challenges involved in securing sustainable, private sector-led economic growth. The Maritime UK Solent Board have a key role in developing local solutions to enhance the economic prospects within the area and to help plan, support and influence the growth of the Solent maritime economy.

Details on the existing Board of Directors can [be found here](#).

Directors duties are set out in sections 171-177 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Articles of Association of Maritime UK Solent, [found here](#).

MUK Solent is committed to having a Board which embraces diversity and promotes equality of opportunity. In line with this commitment, the opportunity to apply for the role is open to business leaders from all backgrounds.

A full role description and person specification is [available here](#).

Terms and Conditions

Remuneration

Remuneration: This is a voluntary role and is not remunerated; Directors can claim reasonable expenses in line with The Maritime UK Solent expenses policy for Directors.

¹ UK Corporate Governance Code 2018 (Code Provision 11). https://media.frc.org.uk/documents/UK_Corporate_Governance_Code_2018.pdf

Period of appointment

The role has a defined term limit of three years. Subject to the agreement of the Chair and the Maritime UK Solent Board, the post may be extended to a second term of a further three years.

Time input

The role is expected to take around one day per month on average and the Director should have sufficient time to meet their Board responsibilities. The time commitment to engage with key stakeholders and get to know the business will be considerable.

Location

Solent area with occasional requirement to travel nationally and internationally.

Development

On appointment, a comprehensive, formal and tailored induction will be provided that will extend beyond the boardroom and the successful candidate will also be expected to undertake some external formal training to ensure they are fully briefed on the role of the Director and the best practice requirements under the FRS UK Corporate Governance Code.

Conflict of interest

The Director will be expected to adhere to normal conflict of interest arrangements, and their companies may be excluded from any contracts where the Maritime UK Solent has a direct financial or commissioning interest.

Conduct

Solent Partners and Maritime UK Solent have embraced the values as set out in the Nolan Principles where we act demonstrating:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

These values are extremely important to us and we expect everyone who work in and with us in any capacity, including the Board of Directors, to display these behaviours at all times. You can find a full copy of the Nolan Principles at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2>

Timetable

The following outlines the target timetable:

| Date | Action |
|------------------|---|
| 3 June 2024 | Closing date for applications |
| w/c 17 June 2024 | Applicants to receive notification on the outcome of shortlisting |
| w/c 1 July 2024 | Interviews for shortlisted candidates |
| 5 July 2024 | Appointment confirmed |

Please note that Maritime UK Solent fully intend to adhere to the above timetable. However, we reserve the right to depart from this and will notify all candidates of any change to the timetable.

How to Apply

To apply, please send us:

- A covering letter highlighting why you are interested in the post, the skills and experience you possess which you feel would be most relevant to the role and how you meet each of the person specification requirements listed. Please note that applicants that would not be considered independent under the UK Corporate Governance Code are asked to provide an explanation within the covering letter to their application setting out the rationale for such an appointment to be considered.
- Your curriculum vitae (CV).

Applications should be submitted via email to: info@solentpartners.com and must be received by 23:59 on Monday 3 June 2024.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to any of the information included in this document, please email: info@solentpartners.com