



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IOSTIA Names Richard V. Lawson as first CEO
***New International Ocean Science and Technology Industry Association
taps well-known ocean technology veteran to lead the organization***

(Washington, DC): IOSTIA (IO-sha), the International Ocean Science and Technology Industry Association <http://www.iostia.org>, a new 501(c)(6) industry association representing companies that sustainably and commercially utilize the oceans has named Richard V. Lawson to be the first CEO of the new organization.

As CEO, Lawson will be responsible for overseeing all business operations, strategic planning, program development and implementation, communications and government affairs, and international efforts at IOSTIA.

Prior to joining IOSTIA, Lawson was the managing partner of Association ROI (AROI), a Washington, DC-based association management firm. AROI also provides strategic planning, program development and implementation expertise as well as traditional association management functions.

Prior to AROI, Lawson was the executive director of the Marine Technology Society (MTS), a scientific society comprised of engineers, scientists, academicians, and professionals associated with ocean technology.

He was recruited by professionals in the ocean technology industry in 2007 to implement a newly crafted strategic plan, professionalize operations, revitalize a well-regarded technology scientific society, and to achieve the full potential of MTS.

As executive director, he had operational oversight of all matters involved with the management of the Society including personnel, finance, development, membership, conferences, communications, legal, and government relations.

Under Lawson's leadership, the membership increased over 60 percent and the operating budget improved more than 44 percent. to \$2.3 million. Staff was increased in order to provide new tiers of member programs, services, and benefits. All member groups saw a comparable increase in numbers, engagement and activity, and the organization greatly expanded its international presence.

"There are tremendous organizations, foundations, societies, and institutes committed to our oceans, and we look forward to working with all them all, but most are not organized as business industry associations, and able to advocate for public policy legislation and regulation that support companies that sustainably and commercially utilize the oceans. At this time, there is no one industry association that solely represents companies in the ocean science and blue-tech space. IOSTIA is that organization now. I am very proud and privileged to serve as IOSTIA's first CEO and to make a mark on the future of this terrific organization," remarked Lawson.

IOSTIA is active on LinkedIn at: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/iostia>

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