



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Final report General Conference, part 2, and Workshop 15-24 October 2021

- **Opening plenary**
- **Workshop report**
- **Final plenary**
- **Appendix 1 VE6SH opening speech**
- **Appendix 2 G3BJ speech**



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Workshop 15-24 October 2021

Author	PB2T
Subject	Report of the opening plenary

1. The IARU Region 1 Virtual Workshop opened on 15 October 2021 18:00 UTC.
2. In memoriam – silent keys. A moment of silence was observed to remind the amateurs who have passed away since our last conference. The list of silent keys includes Wojciech Nietyksza SP5FM, John Devoldere ON4UN, Reinaldo Leandro Rodriguez YV5AM, Faisal Alajmi 9K2RR and Wolf Harranth OE1WHC.
3. IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH then formally opened the Conference. The text of his speech can be found in Annex 1.
4. IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie G3BJ addressed the Conference. The text of his speech can be found in Annex 2
5. Receipt of Committee C2 paper on Credentials
 - a. The following Member Societies were registered for this Workshop: Gabon AGRA, Algeria ARA, Cote d'Ivoire ARAI, Senegal ARAS, Tunisia ARAT, Italy ARI, Monaco ARM, Morocco ARRAM, Kyrgyzstan ARUKR, Bahrain BARS, Bulgaria BFRA. Cyprus CARS, Mali CRAM, Czech Rep CRC, Germany DARC, United Arab Emirates EARS, Denmark EDR, Egypt ERASD, Estonia ERAU, Romania FRR, Iceland IRA, Ireland IRTS, Kuwait KARS, Liberia LRAA, Malta MARL, Montenegro MARP, Hungary MRASZ, Norway NRRL, Austria OeVSV, Poland PZK, Greece RAAG, Lebanon RAL, France REF, Portugal REP, Jordan RJRAS, Luxembourg RL, United Kingdom RSGB, North Macedonia RSM, Seychelles SARA, Slovakia SARA, South Africa SARL, Saudi Arabia SARS, Kosovo SHRAK, Finland SRAL, Russian Federation SRR, Serbia SRS, Sweden SSA, Belgium UBA, Andorra URA, Spain URE, Switzerland USKA, Netherlands VERON, Slovenia ZRS
 - b. The following Member Societies are present by proxy at this General Conference: Liechtenstein, AVFL (held by Switzerland USKA), DR Congo, ARAC (held by Senegal ARAS), Burkina Faso, ARBF (held by Côte d'Ivoire ARAI), San Marino, ARSM (held by Italy ARI), Iraq, IARS (held by Kuwait KARS), Malta, MARL (held by Luxembourg RL) to be used after MARL leaves the meeting, Mongolia, MRSF (held by Netherlands VERON), Namibia NARS (held by South Africa SARL), Oman ROARS (held by Lebanon RAL), Eswatini, RSE (held by Algeria ARA)
6. ARDF rule changes proposal. The meeting approved the proposed change of part A of the ARDF Rules.

7. Region 3 report. The meeting noted the report with interest.
8. ZS4BS confirmed that nominations for the G2BVN Memorial Award had been received.
9. Closing comments. G3BJ encouraged the meeting to actively participate in the workshop and closed the meeting at 19:46 UTC.



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

General Conference and Workshop 15-24 October 2021

Author	G3BJ
Subject	Summary of the 2021 IARU Region 1 Workshop

This is a summary report to Conference on the 2021 IARU Region 1 Workshop which closed Saturday 23rd October. The Workshop was the major part of the Conference and Workshop event held 15-24 October 2021.

1. The IARU Region 1 Virtual Workshop opened on 16th October 2021 at 10.00 UTC with an orientation session to acquaint delegates with the technology and processes to be used in the event.
2. The first working session of the Workshop began at 13:00 on Saturday 16th October 18:00 UTC, which addressed our “ambition for amateur radio”. The session reviewed the SWOT analysis, done in preparation for the Workshop. After a team exercise on Challenging Assumptions and a briefing, the Workshop was divided into smaller “break-out” groups to consider our Core Values and Core Purpose
3. On Sunday 17 October delegates considered and adopted as a basis for future work a list of value statements and a core purpose for amateur radio as follows:

Core Values – the unchanging underpinning elements of amateur radio:

FUN, ENJOYMENT, PASSION, HOBBY

Experiencing the magic of radio/electronics/wireless communications, as a lifetime adventure (for all ages), just for personal interest, without commercial purpose. Amateur radio is not just fun. We are passionate about the use of electromagnetic communications and technology to make achievements and improve ourselves. We enjoy personal interaction with likeminded and want to serve our society.

GLOBAL HAM COMMUNITY

The global ham community is an inclusive environment without frontiers. Ham spirit is used within the community and is a multicultural, apolitical, open minded and tolerant concept where friendship is built around the world. Common interests are shared and developed within this community.

PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTATION (TECH & COMMS)

The freedom to experiment. Curiosity-driven experimentation with technology and communication techniques, re-using existing techniques and improving them, understanding and exploring the physics of electromagnetic propagation.

INNOVATION

A focus on creativity and innovation around leading edge technology and an intense curiosity about what might be possible. Developing new techniques.

LEARNING AND EDUCATION (TECH & COMMS)

A foundation for amateur radio is the continuous self training and education within technologies and communications. Curiosity and a wish to break existing technical boundaries are strong drivers, as well as sharing knowledge within the community to educate and help others.

VALUE TO SOCIETY

Promoting interest in science and technology subjects across society. Amateur radio also provides trained radio operators and radio engineers to businesses. Provide logistical support and radiocommunications expertise in emergency situations and public events.

Two version of core purpose were considered. Both have similar content , to differing degrees of detail:

“Share the joy of exploring science and technology through wireless communications, for the benefit of the world.”

or

“Provide an accessible way that people can enjoy and personally grow from experimentation with, and utilisation of, the radio spectrum, bringing together like-minded people in a community of common interest and offering social and economic benefit to others in our areas of expertise.”

4. The meeting then received a presentation on “Commanders Intent”. This was followed by a briefing and break-outs to consider our “Overarching Goal” for amateur radio in a ten-year timeframe.
5. On Monday 18 October the Workshop first discussed two versions of the overarching goal for ten years’ time, developed from the previous day’s inputs. As the Workshop progressed, the more aspirational version was proposed as the basis for future work. This read:

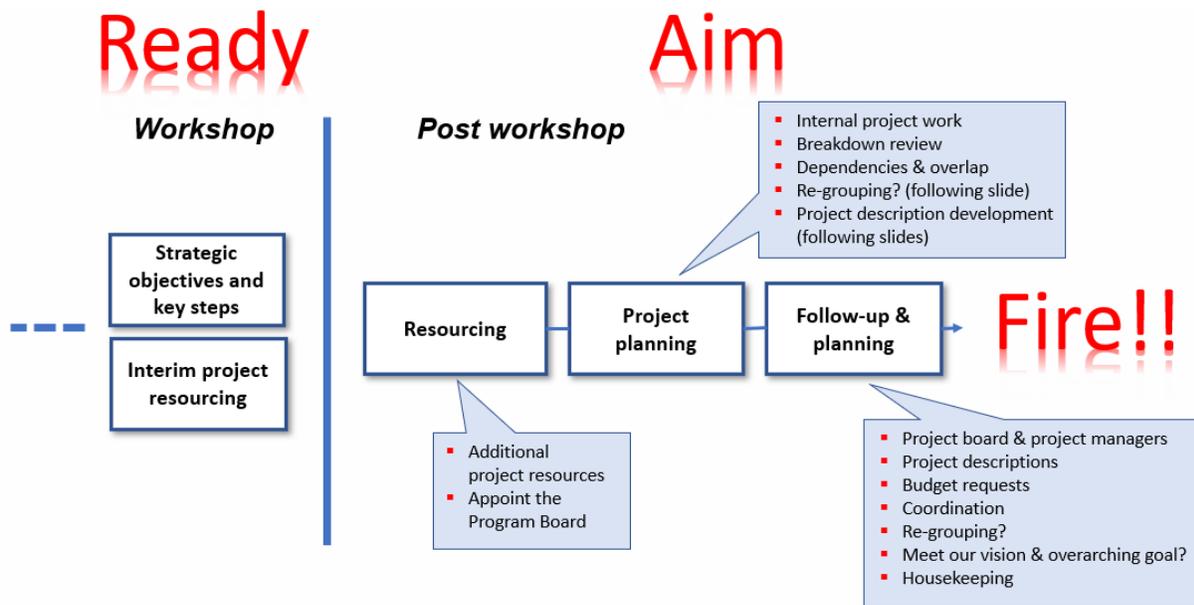
Amateur Radio is booming across Region 1. It has evolved to become one of the leading communities of expertise for science and technology enthusiasts. It is rightly respected and admired, both for the self-development opportunities that it offers and for the value it delivers to society as a whole.

The Workshop then discussed the main building blocks to reach the overarching goal, which had been identified in the previous sessions. Breakout groups then discussed our strategic objectives.

6. On Wednesday 20 October, after an input from USKA on the changes it is working through in Switzerland, the Workshop considered the outputs from the previous session. There had been a wide range of inputs on strategic objectives, but the majority coalesced around eight key themes. Break-out sessions considered these. The final wording was adopted (the following day) as:
 1. Amateur radio is redefined and refocused to be relevant and appealing to broader sectors in society
 2. Amateur radio is seen as a welcoming pastime for people of all ages and all backgrounds
 3. Amateur radio is seen to be providing economic and social benefit
 4. Innovation and creativity are fundamental to the amateur service, which is publicly recognised as the leading non- commercial authority on wireless communication
 5. Amateur radio provides an infrastructure of support to self-development and excellence within communications and technology
 6. Regulators acknowledge the relevance and technical capability of the amateur service and its value to society
 7. Amateur radio has a high-profile and high value media presence
 8. IARU has an active program in place to strengthen member societies and support their development
7. On Thursday 21 October, after case studies from VERON, RSGB and URE, the Workshop began to consider the necessary key tasks to achieve each strategic objective, encompassing the key steps, possible obstacles and the solutions to these.
8. On Saturday 23 October: the Workshop considered the key steps in each Strategic Objective and then consider the resource requirements for carrying forward the work after the Workshop.
9. It was acknowledged that securing volunteers to take part in the work would be challenging, but a number of those present indicated their willingness to carry aspects of the work forward.
10. Saturday's meeting noted the plans to create a Program Board to consider and provide funding to projects arising from the work plan. Delegates were asked to notify the

Region 1 Secretary if they had an interest in joining the Program Board. It was also noted that transparency, good communication and a sense of urgency were essential parts of the work going forward. The new EC will urgently consider the immediate actions to give the work program momentum.

11. The stepped approach to program implementation (below) will be implemented. The Program Board will be formed quickly and the strategic objectives reviewed by the Board to establish how the projects will be grouped as a work-plan. Projects will then be created, drawing in those who already volunteered in the Workshop to participate in the work, plus others which Member Societies will be asked to identify. The stepped approach to program implementation will be implemented.



12. It is clear from the work already completed that there are potentially significant funding implications in the work programs likely to be needed to address each strategic objective. At this stage no clear estimate can be given of the size of the funding need, but Committee C2 recommended a significant allocation from the region's reserves to cover the first two years of the program.



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Workshop 15-24 October 2021

Author	PB2T
Subject	Report of the final plenary

1. G3BJ opened the final plenary of the IARU Region 1 Virtual Workshop on 24 October 2021 13:00 UTC.

- 2. C2 budget review**

The Chairman of Committee C2 ZS6QL reported that two incomplete proxies had been duly signed within the given 24 hours. Both proxies (AFVL and MRSF) were accepted.

ZS6QL presented the C2 report. The meeting accepted the proposals from Committee C2:

- a. There is general agreement to keep a reserve of a three years operational spend.
- b. Projects.

C2 noted the proposal in the budget paper, to create a Program Board to consider and approve budgets for each project. C2 supports this proposal. It is expected that the workshop will decide to adopt 8 Strategic Objectives in support of the future of amateur radio. Within each SO there will be a set of key tasks. Funding will be needed for projects but C2 is not able to judge exact amounts at this stage. However, C2 agrees on the principle to fund projects from the reserves and proposes to allocate CHF 100.000 for 2022 and CHF 100.000 for 2023 in budget line 137. Spending limits for each project will be agreed and approved by the Program Board.

- c. STARS

C2 noted that STARS has been not very active in the past years. Part of potential STARS projects could be seen as projects in the interest of the future of amateur radio. The question was raised if the development fund was filled automatically. It was explained that practice was stopped some years back.

- d. ITU meetings and meetings of RTO's.

Explanation was given on participation in ITU meetings and meetings of RTO's.

- e. Negative interest rates.

HB9JOE reported no problems so far. If necessary, he will open an additional account.

- f. The consolidated budget can be found in annex 1.

- g. C2 agrees with the EC that operational work should continue to be carried out by volunteers. Work on a specific deliverable could be carried out by consultants (professional) if the need arises.
 - h. 10% of the Region's income is paid to the International Secretariat to cover part of their costs.
 - i. C2 agrees to the budget as proposed with a provision for projects in line 137.
- 3. Subscription rate.**
The conference decided to keep subscription rate at same level
- 4. Venue of the 2023 IARU Region 1 General Conference**
Discussion took place if IARU Region 1 Conferences should take place as in-person meetings, virtual meetings or as hybrid meetings. Pro's and cons were discussed. It was decided that the EC will consider all three options.
SRS (Serbia) presented their proposal to organize the 2023 General Conference in Novi Sad. When holding the conference in Hotel Park in Novi Sad Region 1 will be able to recover most of the down payment made. A vote took place. 49 member societies were in favour to hold the 2023 GC in Novi Sad, 2 voted against and 2 abstained.
- 5. EC Elections**
The EC elections were supervised by Committee C6. C6 Chairman C31US announced the results.
- a. Officers appointments
President: Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR was elected with 49 votes and 3 abstentions
Vice-President: Hani Raad, OD5TE was elected with 37 votes. Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T was not elected with 15 votes.
Secretary: Mats Espling, SM6EAN was elected with 36 votes. Dennis Green ZS4BS was not elected with 16 votes.
Treasurer: Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE was elected with 52 votes
 - b. EC members appointments
elected were
Lisa Leenders, PA2LS with 43 votes
Alessandro Carletti, IV3KKW with 41 votes
Joerg Jaehrig, DJ3HW with 40 votes
Ahmad AlHoli, 9K2DB with 37 votes
Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO with 36 votes
Not elected were
Dennis Green ZS4BS with 19 votes
Florian Zwingl OE3FTA with 10 votes
- 6. G2BVN Memorial Trophy**
ZS4BS, chairman of the G2BVN Memorial Trophy Committee announced that the recipients of the Roy Stevens G2BVN Memorial Trophy are Ole Garpestad LA2RR and Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T. The awards will be presented in-person at a later stage.

7. Workshop Report

The workshop report was discussed. The following observations were made

- a. TF3KB (IRA) commented that spectrum defense was not mentioned as objective. G3BJ responded that spectrum defense will be covered by Strategic Objectives 3 and 6.
- b. G6JYB (RSGB) pointed out that the powerpoint presentation shows the agreed Strategic Objectives, while the word document contained an earlier version of the strategic objectives
- c. LA7KJ (NRRL) pointed out that NRRL supports the Entry Level License and that he will bring this to the attention of his administration.
- d. YT7TP (SRS) stated that a large number of non-members should be attracted. G2BJ replied that this is the role of an effective member society.
- e. SP5ITI (PZK) proposed that Entry Level Licenses can be administered by Member Societies.

CARS proposed to adopt the Workshop Report and was seconded by PZK. The Workshop Report was adopted with 48 votes in favour, 12 against and 4 abstentions

8. Closing

G3BJ closed the meeting at 15:30 UTC.

Appendix 1

Tim Ellam, VE6SH, opening speech

Honorable Guests , Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning.

I am delighted to see many of you again albeit virtually. I hope that you have all remained safe and healthy during current world events.

It gives me great pleasure to bring greetings from the IARU International Secretariat and your officers Vice President Ole Garpestaad LA2RR and Secretary Dave Sumner K1ZZ.

I would say that one would have not imagined a year ago that we would be holding a regional conference by virtual means, but I would wager we are getting used it by now. I think it speaks highly of all of us how quickly we have been able to adapt to virtual meetings and to move a lot of our business on line.

While holding a virtual meeting is not without its challenges I also think it bring an excellent opportunity to have more of our member-societies, more of our delegates and more radio amateurs and guest participate in our discussions. Attendance at in person meetings was a financial challenge for many of our members. We now have an opportunity to include more input into our discussions and participation from societies that might not otherwise attend the conference. I would wager that going forward many of our conferences and meetings will continue to be virtual, or at least a hybrid of virtual and in person attendance.

All of the officers are pleased to be attending as observers at this conference and look forward to participating in the discussions this week.

I am also very pleased to be able to address you today and to deliver some remarks at the opening of this conference.

Colleagues, *“Amateur Radio has changed and will continue to change. The IARU and its member-societies must be ready to adapt and respond to that change”*

I have said those words in my opening remarks to IARU regional conferences since I became president in 2009. Everyone seemingly agrees with my comments about “change”, but it is only recently that our changing environment has required IARU to focus on altering the way we work. Clearly the fact that this meeting is being held virtually gives us the opportunity to recognize changes have to be made if IARU is going to be able to continue its good work in the future.

While I firmly believed we have made the IARU more cohesive and adaptable we still need to do more. Much more.

We are facing a generational and technical change in the amateur population. Such generational changes are not always reflected in our member-societies or indeed the IARU.

We witness technical changes in the Amateur Services, but are often slow in adopting such changes or accepting those changes may not be what amateur radio means to us, but they are for many newer amateurs (the popularity of FT8 is but one example).

There are many additional organizations outside our member-societies which attract amateurs (and in some cases a very healthy number of members) sometimes to the detriment of our own societies. Some are focused on operating and others on technical achievement. We must adapt and consider how we can bring these organizations into our work. We can no longer ignore other groups which are attractive to the newer generation of amateurs.

In short, we cannot simply espouse the benefits of being a member of a IARU member society to today's amateurs. We need to respond and adapt to what they see as the benefit of amateur radio in order to ensure IARU remains healthy and relevant in the future.

I would urge you to consider how we can keep the core goals of the IARU and at the same time letting go of some things that we hold dear.

For example, will we really need a QSL Bureau system in the future for paper cards? Will that be attractive to a new generation of amateurs? We know the bureau system is major financial burden for some societies. The pandemic has suspended mail service between many countries. Consider whether it will ever come back. Should we not be encouraging electronic QSLing in some form?

Spectrum sharing, especially in the VHF plus range, will become necessary in the future and something IARU is working on to have a coordinated worldwide response on what portions of the spectrum we can either share or possibly trade for additional spectrum. We can no longer ignore the changing view by many regulators that spectrum must be shared where it is feasible. That will become a reality we need to prepare for now and manage the expectations of our members.

I acknowledge change is not easy and implementation of changes are often far from perfect. But, we must embrace change to continue to effectively advocate for the Amateur Service. Mr. President I think I should stop there. I am not trying to generate controversy by my remarks, but to stimulate discussion.

I am also pleased Region 1 has taken the lead on driving us forward. With the assistance of our member-societies and the IARU regional organizations I am confident that we will be able to adapt to change, both now and in the future. The workshop in 2021 will be an important opportunity for Region 1 to review its strategies for the future and the implications for Member Societies and IARU.

Thank you for allowing me some opening comments. I extend my personal support and good wishes for what I believe will be a very good conference.

Thank you.

Appendix 2

Don Beattie, G3BJ, addressing the conference

Your view from the top is important to us, and I'm pleased that you have highlighted the areas which you have, as they resonate with our aims for the coming ten days.

I echo your comments about the constraints that COVID has brought, and the inevitable limitations of virtual meetings – especially for the sort of interactive event that we plan for the coming ten days. It is a great shame that we are unable to meet together, as this would make the work we have this week more straightforward. Nonetheless, I hope can all embrace the limitations of the technology and work constructively together to produce a great result.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, I want to say a few words now as we start this conference and workshop programme.

Let me reflect on what has brought us here today and share my hopes for our work together.

From time to time, a number of you have expressed your concerns to me about the position of amateur radio today, views which are shared by the EC

You have said that we need to **improve our public relations**.

You have said that we need to **form alliances with other organisations** in related fields and so strengthen our position.

You have said that we should be recruiting into Amateur Radio **people from other related interest groups**.

All of these are very valid comments, but they risk overlooking one important point.

The amateur radio we talk about today is very often the amateur radio of the past.

If we are to focus on, and invest in PR, or if we are to seek alliances with other organisations to build a stronger amateur radio community, or if we set out to recruit from other parts of the population, **we need a shared vision** of what amateur radio is becoming, or perhaps I should say should become, to have any chance of a credible dialogue with our audiences.

In short, we need a relevant “product” to offer for today’s generation.

Many of you will know that for the last four years in addition to my role as President I have been representing IARU in both ITU and CEPT on the potential threat of wireless power transmission to radio communication services.

When I started this work, I was unknown in those regulatory forums and was viewed with **suspicion and even a degree of hostility**.

That has moved now to a situation where the input of the amateur service is actively sought on technical aspects of the impact of WPT on radio communications.

That has taken a lot of time and effort but it shows that attitudes to amateur radio's role can be changed.

But even so, the personal contribution I made at the technical level to these regulatory discussions did not change the underlying view of regulators about the **relevance of amateur radio** and its social and economic value.

The spectrum that we occupy is often viewed as low priority for protection because "**amateur radio does not matter**".

If you think about the implications of that, there is a real risk that we are walking towards extinction as the pressures on the radio spectrum increase.

So what to do? You may have heard the story of three bricklayers – but it is worth repeating now.

A traveller came upon three men working.

He asked the first man what he was doing and the man said he was laying bricks.

He asked the second man the same question and he said he was building up a wall.

When he got to the third man and asked him what he was doing he replied that he was **building a cathedral**.

They were all doing the same thing, the first man had a job, the second man had a career and the third man had a vision and purpose.

What is our vision in amateur radio of the cathedral **we** are building? Do we share a common view? I don't think so.

Let me go back to the comments that IARU is not doing enough about our future direction.

Please remember that IARU itself has no people of its own and that **our people are your people**.

What we **can** do in IARU is to lead by encouraging and supporting work to develop a shared direction of travel and try to continually focus everyone in supporting that direction.

Be in no doubt, IARU cannot redefine and refocus amateur radio without the **active commitment** and involvement of you all.

So what we decide together this week will give us a shared aiming point. It will shape the future agenda which faces all our Member Societies and IARU itself.

In a number of past ventures it is clear to me that together we have **over-committed and under-delivered**.

Finding capable volunteers with both the time and commitment to do difficult and time-consuming things on behalf of amateur radio is tough. So whatever we do this week, when it comes to implementation I advise **making realistic commitments and over-delivery**.

So from this meeting we don't just need words, but the actions that deliver the **reality** of the words.

We start on a journey today which will be both challenging and exciting. In this journey, Member Societies will need to take a hard look at their leadership team

and decide whether that team has the **commitment, energy and determination** to carry their Society forward.

The same applies to IARU – we need an Executive Committee that shares the vision and determination to refocus amateur radio to be relevant for the future.

So I hope when you come to vote for your EC on Sunday next you will think very carefully about the needs of the future and the challenges that we face, and equip Region 1 with the best Executive Committee possible, fully capable of carrying forward the agenda that we determine together in the next seven days

This will be a difficult and sometimes frustrating week for us all.

Holding an interactive workshop virtually is really tough, but COVID has dictated that it must be like this. We will be making extensive use of small break-out meetings during the next week and this will give everyone the opportunity to contribute their thoughts. So your full and active participation in the break-out groups is essential to the process.

We are all keen to start **doing** things, but we must avoid the temptation of “**ready, fire, aim**”.

We need first of all that “**shared view**” of where we want to take amateur radio and that will be a major part of this next week’s work.

Once we have that shared view, my hope and expectation is that the remaining steps of this week’s programme will be less stressful – to work out what will get us to our aiming point.

But please remember that this week is the **start of a journey**.

We will not have solved all our problems by next Sunday. We must see this event as the continuation of a process which we started earlier this year with the SWOT analysis and which will continue for several years to come. But it will help us to set the direction for the development of the hobby over the next ten years

Please work with us on the process we have designed for this week. We have taken the best advice available in shaping our programme, and we are deeply indebted to Chris Deacon who has worked with us on this journey for the last 18 months, guiding and challenging our thinking.

We also thank Scott Wayne and his team at Envoy Portfolio who have supported the production of this event.

Colleagues, **change is always difficult**.

Leadership is particularly challenging when there is transformational change to achieve.

We must all have a single-minded sense of direction if we are to have any chance of success.

That is the purpose of this week and I wish everyone success in delivering an outstanding outcome.