

## ISMA Names New President as Role of Chief Security Officer Enters Defining Era

**[London UK, July 1, 2025]** — The International Security Management Association (ISMA) has announced that **Niall MacGinnis will succeed Kirsten Meskill as President of the ISMA Board of Directors**, effective 1 July 2025.

ISMA, a global network of senior security executives from the world's top multinational companies, plays a pivotal role in equipping Chief Security Officers (CSOs) to lead risk management and response in a volatile and uncertain world. Anticipating outcomes to protect both brands and employees, whilst also ensuring continuity of operations, helps corporations be truly resilient, offering assurance to leaders, shareholders and customers.

ISMA members represent over half of the Fortune 100 and more than 20% of the Fortune Global 500 — a testament to the organization's deep bench of strategic influence.

"CSOs help organisations get ahead of potential issues and achieve their business goals by seeing and understanding relevant risk and making sure the company has thought through issues, and when things do happen they manage impact in real time," said **Niall MacGinnis**, ISMA's new President. "A CSO's job is to see fragility first. ISMA is a powerful force multiplier to connect the CSO community so they turn that foresight into action by building judgment, not just knowledge, and helping leaders act."

"Despite the fact ISMA's purpose hasn't changed in its 42 years, the environments in which we operate and the risk landscape have," said outgoing President **Kirsten Meskill**. "That landscape has changed our work, broadened the scope and impact. ISMA will always be a trusted network of CSOs sharing practices to make sound decisions with real-world consequences. The skills, experiences and expertise needed to confront today's and tomorrow's challenges are changing and ISMA is already leading the effort to prepare our current and next generation CSOs."

As part of the organization's ongoing strategic plan, MacGinnis will focus on deepening ISMA's investment in developing the CSO of the future and extending its relevance in an era where CSOs are being called on by boards to advise on geopolitical issues, and to act as cross-functional integrators of enterprise risk. Reflecting that shift, and ISMA's strong presence in the international risk and security landscape, the next Member Meeting will be held in Munich, directly following the 2026 Munich Security Conference.

ISMA is also expanding its reach with the launch of ISMA **IGNITE**, a nine-month leadership program for high-performing professionals on the path to becoming CSOs.

Unlike conventional training programs, **IGNITE includes direct exposure to the real strategic dilemmas CSOs face — from disinformation threats to reputational sabotage and coordinated activist disruption – and access to the trusted ISMA network to gain strategic security insights.** The program is designed not to certify competence, but to accelerate readiness.

“We’re not here to manage threat lists,” said MacGinnis. “We’re here to build the kind of CSOs who are critical business partners to CEOs and their teams. The world is changing and so are the expectations companies have for CSOs. ISMA Ignite will both prepare the next generation of CSO and also tap into their own experience to help define the role for the future.

#### Notes for Editor:

- **About ISMA**

The International Security Management Association (ISMA) is the leading strategic global association for senior corporate security executives. With members across the globe, ISMA provides a trusted platform for collaboration, professional development, and industry leadership in corporate security, risk, and resilience.

- **ISMA IGNITE Program**

IGNITE is a nine-month leadership development initiative launched in 2025 to accelerate the next generation of CSOs. The program includes peer exchange, senior mentorship, and strategy workshops focused on emerging risks and enterprise leadership.

► Learn more about [IGNITE](#)

#### **Photos and Media**

- Images available for download include: a headshot of [Niall MacGinnis](#), incoming ISMA President, a headshot of [Kirsten Meskill](#), outgoing ISMA President, and [ISMA branding assets](#). Please credit: *Courtesy of ISMA*

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