



Gard CEO becomes Chair of the International Group

Rolf Thore Roppestad, CEO of Gard, has been appointed Chair of the International Group of P&I Clubs (IG), following a unanimous vote at the Group's Annual General Meeting in London on 11 November. He takes over from Andrew Cutler, CEO of Britannia P&I, who has served as Chair since 2022.

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Roppestad said he was honored to assume the role and underscored the enduring importance of the IG system in ensuring stability and continuity within the global maritime industry.

“In today’s geopolitical climate, where established global frameworks and collaboration are under pressure on several fronts, the role of the IG is perhaps more critical than ever,” he said. “The IG brings together mutual P&I insurers from different parts of the world to ensure that maritime casualties are handled responsibly and efficiently. It ensures that clean-up is properly managed, that people are supported and compensated, and that communities are protected. It is a system that has served society well – and one we must continue to safeguard and promote.”

Key to global trade

Roppestad succeeds Cutler at a time when the maritime industry is navigating heightened geopolitical tension, expanding sanctions regimes, and a growing regulatory burden. During Cutler’s tenure, the IG also oversaw the merger of two of its member clubs.

Reflecting on his term as Chair, Cutler commented: “When I took office, we were still emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, we have seen geopolitical tensions rising, whilst the regulatory burdens in shipping are increasing and compliance with global trade rules is becoming ever more complex. Despite these pressures, the Group system remains vital in continuing to keep global maritime trade moving. I have no doubt that Rolf Thore will lead the Group effectively in facing the many challenges ahead, ensuring that Clubs can continue to support their shipowner members and provide high levels of P&I cover through the Group system.”

Looking ahead

Nick Shaw, CEO of the IG, welcomed the appointment and acknowledged Cutler’s important contribution: “All of those who have worked with Andrew over the last three years have been impressed by his collaborative leadership and attention to detail. We all wish Andrew every success for the future. I also look forward to continuing Andrew’s good work with Rolf Thore and developing the Group’s strategy as we face the future challenges in the maritime industry,” said Shaw.

Roppestad emphasized the Group’s collective strength and its role in supporting global trade:

“The IG system is close to my heart. It plays a key part not only in facilitating global shipping, but also in helping to protect seafarers and the marine environment. Under Andrew’s leadership, the Group has thrived and consistently demonstrated its value, and I look forward to building on that. Together, the Group Clubs will continue to support shipowners as they navigate an increasingly complex regulatory and geopolitical environment. Keeping the IG mission at the forefront: collectively stronger.”



From left: Nick Shaw, Rolf Thore Roppestad, Andrew Cutler.

About the IG:

The IG is made up of 12 mutual, not-for-profit P&I clubs that together provide cover for almost 90% of the world fleet. The Clubs share expertise and major claims through a pooling and reinsurance system and act together as a key industry voice on matters relating to shipping, global maritime risk and regulation.

About Rolf Thore Roppestad:

Rolf Thore Roppestad has served as Gard CEO since 2014. He joined Gard in 1997 and has held several roles in underwriting and senior management. Before joining Gard, he worked at KPMG and for the Norwegian government.

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