John R. Potter, PhD.

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Personal Statement

Over 3 decades of marine scientific research & technology development experience in glaciology, oceanography, underwater communications, acoustics, ambient noise, marine mammals, autonomous vehicles, machine intelligence & distributed autonomous sensing networks.

A senior scientist/manager with exceptional interpersonal, problem solving & innovative analytical skills, combined with a strong ability to see 'the big picture' to effectively recognise & develop novel opportunities. A strategic thinker with exceptional communication skills who can effectively focus on key issues to provide viable solutions to multifaceted problems in an uncertain & changing environment.

Energetic & assertive, with a proven ability to build & lead diversely talented teams to provide innovative advances. Experienced, confident & articulate in dealing with multi-national governmental, academic, military & industrial organisations from the Americas through Europe, to Asia, with 12 years' working experience in Singapore.

A conscientious team builder and leader, relishing new challenges with an effective grasp of risk management in environments that are characterised by uncertain opportunities featuring highly varied international & multi-cultural contexts.

10 years' experience in facilitating, coaching & training personal performance & leadership skill development, change-management, team building, relationship management & corporate strategy.

Personal growth areas include marriage, several illuminating near-death experiences, raising a couple of fabulous children & leading adventure expeditions (4 Antarctic expeditions, blue-water sailing crossings of most of the world's oceans, a 13-month environmental research, education & outreach expedition to circumnavigate the Indian Ocean) visiting over 70 countries in the process.

Education

1985

Doctorate of Philosophy in Oceanography and Glaciology

Cambridge University, UK – Supervised by Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMPT) in conjunction with the Council for National Academic Awards (CNNA) (now amalgamated with the Open University)

PhD. awarded for research performed while at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, based on data collected during four consecutive 6-month expeditions to the Antarctic.

1979

Bachelor of Science Joint Honours in Mathematics and Physics

Bristol University, UK

An upper second class joint honours degree in Mathematics and Physics, specialising in quantum mechanics, astrophysics and cosmology.

Leadership Activities and Awards

2016 – present	***Member*** IEEE OES Author Education Ad-Hoc committee
2015 – 2016	***General co-chair*** Underwater Communications '16 international conference
2013 - 2017	***Elected Member*** of the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Administrative Committee
2013 – 2014	***General co-chair*** Underwater Communications '14 international conference
2011 – 2012	***Founder and General co-chair*** Underwater Communications international conference
2007 - 2009	***Elected Member*** of the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Administrative Committee
2005	***Best Lecturer Award,*** NUS
2003 – 2006	***General co-Chair, IEEE Oceans Asia Pacific*** International Conference and Exhibition
2004	***National Defence Technology Prize*** for project 'ROMANIS'
2002 – present	***Entry*** in Who's Who in the World
2002 – 2005	***Expedition Founder and Leader*** of a 13-month sailing circumnavigation of the Indian Ocean on a mission of education, public outreach and research into marine ecological sustainability 2004-2005
2002 – 2007	***Associate Director***, Tropical Marine Science Institute, NUS
2002 – 2006	***Co-Founder and Chairman***, IEEE Singapore Chapter of Ocean Engineering Society
1999 – present	***Associate Editor*** of IEEE Journal of Oceanic Engineering
1998 – present	***Professional Association of Diving Instructors*** Master Scuba Diver Trainer
1998 – present	***International Fellow*** of the Explorer's Club
1996 – 2007	***Founder and Head,*** Acoustic Research Laboratory, TMSI, NUS
1996 – present	***Entry*** in Who's Who in Engineering Worldwide
1996	***Best paper in acoustics*** award from the Acoustical Society of America for an article published in *Scientific American*
1993 – 1994	***Co-Chair*** *Sea Surface Sound* international conference, 1994
1988 – 1990	***General Chair*** *Ocean Variability and Acoustic Propagation* international conference 1990
1988	***Polar medal*** for outstanding contributions to Oceanography and Glaciology research in the Antarctic presented personally by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in Buckingham Palace, London

Academic Accreditation

- Co-chair of 8 international conferences and exhibitions
- Editor of 5 books and special collections
- Over 170 peer-reviewed published articles
- Over 1,800 citations
- Publication Impact i10-index factor of 49
- Publication Impact h-index of 21 (in the top 5% for the field)

- https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=nSI9ROgAAAAJ

Professional Affiliations

2015 – Present Corporate delegated member of the Marine Technology Society

2006 – Present Life Member of the Marine Mammal Society

1998 – Present Professional member of PADI as a Master Scuba Diver Trainer

1996 – Present Senior Member of the IEEE

Work Experience

2014 - present

Principal Strategic Development Officer

NATO STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation, Italy

Developing strategic initiatives and plans, brand, markets and clients, including authoring strategic roadmap and options papers, adopted for external socialisation.

2009 – 2014

Project Leader: Communications and Networking in the Maritime Environment

NATO STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation, Italy

Led a team that invented, developed, tested and evaluated technologies to create capabilities and standards that support communication and ad-hoc networking for distributed autonomous sensing systems in the maritime environment.

Principal Investigator in projects such as EU FP7 'Sunrise'; creating the Internet of Underwater Things (IoUT).

Successfully designed, developed and nurtured through to acceptance the first digital underwater communications standard, JANUS.

Responsibilities included mentoring staff, human capital development, coaching, project management and reporting within the Prince II framework, ISO 9000 compliance, proposal writing and marketing. Also designed, planned and led, as Scientist in Charge, several sea trials, drawing together collaborative consortia of up to 8 diverse marine research organisations..

2007 – 2009

Marine Technology Consultant

Italy and Singapore

Contracted to manage the relationship between a NATO Research Centre and several research and technology interests in Singapore, handled through the participation and support of the University of Pisa, brokering joint research projects and managing these projects and their deliverables from each side.

2002 - 2013

Coach, Facilitator and Trainer

Volunteer work for a professional training company and independent consulting as a trainer

Facilitator and coach in numerous leadership and personal development trainings and programmes. Independent consulting course designer, trainer and facilitator in non-technical inter-personal skills development and systems thinking, promoting leadership and teambuilding in an engineering systems postgraduate course aimed at grooming top-performing individuals to become industry and national defence organisation leaders.

1999 - 2007

Associate Director, Tropical Marine Science Institute

National University of Singapore

Developed research strategies and funding opportunities for a wide range of marine science research and development in collaboration with international centres of excellence, including MIT, SIO and NATO. Developed the vision and strategy in a successful campaign to raise support for two new laboratory and office buildings on University campus, the first constructed in 1999, the second in 2007

1996 - 2007

Founder and Head, Acoustic Research Laboratory

Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore

Founded the Acoustic Research Laboratory (ARL) in the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1996 and led its growth and development for 11 years, culminating in mentoring leadership, empowerment and ownership within the laboratory to take over on my departure. Responsibilities included raising 100% of the research support funds by writing and promoting proposals to clients. Primary research areas were underwater communications, marine mammal acoustics, ambient noise, acoustic imaging and autonomous vehicles. Proposed, funded and led a team to design, build and test the first fully digital ambient noise imaging system, ROMANIS, leading to the award of the national defence prize in 2004. Associate Professor in the Engineering Department, lecturing in Mathematics.

1991 – 1995

Project Scientist

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD, CA, USA

Conducted fundamental marine acoustic research into ambient noise, acoustic imaging and marine mammal acoustics. Developed and promoted funding proposals to sponsors. Led a team that designed, built and successfully tested the first ambient noise imaging system, producing real-time video images of silent objects using only ambient noise as 'illumination'. Work resulted in a New Scientist publication and an international award.

1986 – 1991

Senior Scientist

NATO Undersea Research Centre, Italy

Theoretical and applied research into high-frequency acoustic propagation variability. Planning, leading and analysing data from many sea trials with international collaborators in the Mediterranean, Greenland, Iceland and Norwegian seas. Scientist in Charge on sea trial with NRV Alliance, including multi-ship international collaboration. Pioneered breakthroughs in the understanding of coupled ocean variability and acoustic propagation, culminating in chairing an international conference in 1990.

1979 – 1985

Higher Scientific Officer

British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK

Glaciologist and Oceanographer, conducting field research expeditions in the Antarctic on glaciers and ice shelves to investigate the relationship between the melt rate of a floating ice shelf and oceanographic conditions. Breakthrough early work on likely polar ice responses to climate change, with peer-reviewed publications that are being highly cited, even today. Awarded the Polar Medal by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II for this pioneering work.

Personal Interests

- Personal and corporate environmental responsibility, performance training and coaching
- Developing leadership potential, team-building, behavioural and social psychology
- Sports (Blue-water sailing, Cycling, Triathlons, Skiing, Diving, Motorcycles, Martial Arts)
- Flying (though I have had some trouble with trees here)
- Great food, wine, conversation, philosophy, new technologies, deep-sea line fishing

References

References available on request.