

## Mike O'Driscoll

Director, Industrial Mineral Forums & Research Ltd

### Contacts

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### Summary

Mike O'Driscoll is an independent consultant and freelance writer with over 30 years experience in the international mining and minerals industry, specialising in industrial minerals and markets.

He is co-owner and director of **IMFORMED Industrial Mineral Forums & Research Ltd** – providing professional networking opportunities and market research expertise for the global non-metallic minerals industry, launched in January 2015 (with [Ismene Clarke](#)).

**IMFORMED** focuses on: **Industrial Minerals Supply & Demand | Mineral Logistics | Mineral Recycling | Oilfield | Magnesia | Fluorspar | Refractories | China | India**

He worked at *Industrial Minerals* (IM) magazine for 26 years: Editor for 17 years, then becoming Global Head of Research and launching IM Research in 2012.

He holds a BSc in Geography & Geology, and MSc in Mining Geology from the Camborne School of Mines.

He was Associate Editor and contributing author to the “industry bible”, 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *Industrial Minerals & Rocks*, published by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) in 2006; and was Chairman of the SME Short Course on Industrial Minerals Due Diligence, 1999, Denver.

In 2011, he was recipient of the Hal Williams Hardinge Award, from The American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, for services to the industry as Editor of IM. Founded in 1958, the award recognises outstanding achievement which has benefited the field of industrial minerals and aggregates.

Mike has extensively researched, written, and devised editorial, event, and research report concepts on all aspects of the industrial minerals mine to market supply chain. He has visited a wide range of mineral supply and end user operations worldwide, meeting senior executives from all key sectors, and has regularly organised, chaired, and presented at many industry conferences.

He is a member of the SME, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the Association of Mining Analysts, and is interviewed by media and investment consultants as an expert on industrial minerals.

## Experience & Education in detail

### Director & Co-owner, IMFORMED Industrial Mineral Forums & Research Ltd January 2015 – Present

Providing industry leading conferences and market research expertise for the global industrial minerals business: [www.imformed.com](http://www.imformed.com) for all details.

**For list of presentations at IMFORMED [click here](#)**

**For list of articles in media at IMFORMED [click here](#)**

### Independent Industrial Minerals & Markets Consultant and Freelance Writer July 2014 - Present

Consulting, research, presenting, and freelance writing covering all aspects of the international industrial minerals business.

Specialist interests in oilfield, proppant, new energy, refractory, foundry, and filler minerals and markets.

### Global Head of Research, Consultant Editor, Industrial Minerals Research, Industrial Minerals April 2012 - July 2014

Devising, developing, writing, editing, and managing production of premium bespoke and multi-client (MC) research reports and publications, including:

- Magnesia Market Report
- Bauxite Market Report
- Talc Market Report
- Barite Market Report
- Drilling Barite & Bentonite Report
- Australian Ceramic Proppant Market Report
- China's Proppants Market Report (MC)
- Natural Graphite Report (MC)
- Global Lithium Market Outlook (MC)
- Ceramic Minerals Wall Chart
- Refractory Minerals Wall Chart

Specialist editorial contributions to IM.  
Overseeing, supporting, and mentoring IM Editorial Dept.

Devising, developing, marketing, and organising the IM Roundtables series:

- Moving Minerals
- Oilfield Minerals Outlook
- Oilfield Minerals Outlook: Middle East
- Oilfield Minerals Outlook: Proppant Prospects for Europe
- China's Industrial Minerals & Markets

Chairing and presenting at external industry events, including:

- Refractory Raw Materials Symposium, 55th International Colloquium on Refractories, Aachen, 2012

Interviews, including:

“Proppant goes to extremes”, by Stephen Rassenfoss, JPT Emerging Technology Senior Editor *Journal of Petroleum Technology*, December 2013

“Mining firms stockpiling sand until price goes up”, by Kate Pregelman, Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, *Tomah Journal*, 31 December 2012

**For an extensive list of all articles and presentations while at *Industrial Minerals* [click here](#)**

**Editor, *Industrial Minerals*  
August 1995 - April 2012**

Overall management and supervision of the IM editorial team and IM business; in particular, in producing IM monthly magazine, daily online news and features, associated supplements and projects, organising and chairing IM conferences, and steering website development. Researching, investigating, writing, news and in-depth articles  
Editor of IM/MBR Global Lithium Market Outlook Report  
Magazine re-design and launch

Devising, launching, writing, and editing a series of ancillary IM publications, including:

*Mineral PriceWatch*  
*North American Minerals News*  
*Industrial Minerals Directory*  
*Industrial Mineral Traders Directory*  
*World Refractories Directory*  
*Chinese Industrial Minerals Directory*  
*Raw Materials for the Refractories Industry*  
*Fused Minerals*  
*Industrial Minerals of the Far East*  
*Trading in Industrial Minerals - an IM Special Review*

Devising, organising, and chairing IM conferences, including:

MagMin  
Chinese Industrial Minerals Conference  
Fluorspar  
Industrial Minerals International Congress  
Bauxite & Alumina International Seminar  
Chromite  
Lithium Supply & Markets  
Euromin  
North American Annual Industrial Minerals Meeting  
Special Meeting: China Chamber of Commerce & UK Minerals Industry  
Industrial Minerals Annual Forum & Dinner

Chairing external industry events, including:

Silica Arabia 2012, Jeddah, 2012  
Investment Opportunities in Saudi Industrial Minerals Workshop, Jeddah, 2009  
IMA-Europe Conference, Strasbourg, 2006  
SME Short Course on Industrial Minerals Due Diligence, Denver, 1999

Presenting at external industry/corporate events, including:

Critical Mineral Resources: Challenges & Opportunities, SME Annual Meeting, Seattle, 2012  
Silica Arabia 2012, Jeddah, 2012  
Refractory Raw Materials Symposium, 55th International Colloquium on Refractories, Aachen, 2012  
Robert Bates Symposium: Other Strategic Mineral Changes, SME Annual Meeting, Denver, 2011  
Cofermin Agents Meeting, Essen, 2011  
Magnesita Global Summit, Contagem, 2011  
Industrial Minerals & Alternative Energy, SME Annual Meeting, Phoenix, 2010  
4th China Liaoning International Magnesia Materials Exposition, Shenyang, 2010  
Impact of China on industrial minerals, SME Annual Meeting, Denver, 2009  
Investment Opportunities in Saudi Industrial Minerals, Jeddah, 2009  
3rd China Liaoning International Magnesia Materials Exposition, Shenyang, 2008  
Future Trends in Industrial Minerals, SME Annual Meeting, Denver, 2007  
Geology & Markets for Value-Added Carbonate Minerals, SME Dreyer Conference Atlanta, 2006  
Tehran International Conference on Refractories, Tehran, 2004  
IMA-Europe 10th Anniversary Conference, Brussels, 2004  
4th International Symposium on Refractories, Dalian, 2003  
China's Refractories Seminar 2001- Technology & Markets, Beijing, 2001  
International Chromium Development Association Meeting, Paris, 1998  
2nd Caribbean Industrial Minerals Workshop, Jamaica, 1995

Interviews, including:

"Cost of metals used in hi-tech devices soars as China limits supplies", by Tom Bawden, *The Observer*, 19 June 2011  
"Rare earth market", Adam Shaw business segment, BBC Radio 4 Today Programme, 23 May 2011  
"Special Interview on Minerals", CCTV, September 2001, Qingdao, China  
Industry Award

Recipient of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers' (AIME) 2011 Hal Williams Hardinge Award for services to the industry as Editor of IM. Presented by the Industrial Minerals and Aggregates Division of the internationally respected Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME).

The citation reads:

*"In recognition of Mr. O'Driscoll's efforts as editor of Industrial Minerals in supporting technical information exchange and the dissemination of technical and commercial information on industrial minerals throughout the world, and particularly his leadership in the exchange of information with the Chinese IM sector."*

The Hal Williams Hardinge Award, established in 1958 and funded by the AIME, recognises outstanding achievement which has benefited the field of industrial minerals and aggregates.

Other publications, including:

Associate Editor and Contributing Author (Chapter 4: International Trade in Industrial Minerals) to *Industrial Minerals & Rocks*, 7th Edition published by the SME, 2006

### **Deputy Editor, Industrial Minerals**

**August 1991 - August 1995**

Supervising IM magazine production in Editor's absence; organise/chair events; research, investigate, write news/reports.

Presenting at external industry conferences, including:

Institute of Refractory Engineers Annual Conference, Sheffield, 1994

Industrial Minerals '92: Opportunities & Trends, São Lourenço, Brazil, 1992

### **Senior Analyst, Leeds Mineral Services Group**

**January 1991 - September 1991**

As part of an independent consultancy group for the minerals industry, researching and writing confidential reports on a range of topics across the industrial minerals industry to customers' specifications.

### **Associate American Editor (New York), Industrial Minerals**

**July 1988 - July 1990**

Anchoring New York office desk for IM; responsible for coverage of Americas for industrial minerals supply/demand news; research, investigate, write news/reports; attend and chair events.

### **Assistant Editor, Industrial Minerals**

**January 1987 - June 1988**

Research, investigate, write news/features on industrial minerals; attend events

### **Editorial Assistant, Institute of Metals (now IOM3)**

**May 1984 - June 1985**

Correcting and proof reading paper abstracts covering the mining and metallurgical industries for publication in IoM periodicals.

## **Education**

### **Camborne School of Mines**

MSc, Mining Geology, 1985 - 1986

Thesis: Study of carbonate hosted hydrothermal gold mineralisation, Abitibi Greenstone Belt, north-west Quebec.

### **Dept. of Crystallography, Birkbeck College, University of London**

Short Course in Scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopy, 1984

### **St Paul & St Mary's College, Cheltenham (now Univ. of Glos.)**

BSc, Geography & Geology, 1980 - 1983

Thesis: A geological field mapping exercise in the Sannox area, Arran, Scotland.