



September 2025

Tēnā koutou

As I head away to this exciting new adventure, I would like to express my thanks to all of you for your openness and friendship over my years at MSL.

To my colleagues at MSL who apprenticed me into the world of metrology, to customers who demanded my best and brought me interesting measurement challenges to solve, and to collaborators in research, in the quality infrastructure, and in international forums who have broadened my vision of the part metrology plays in the wide world.

You all continue to inspire me with your dedication to excellence and passion to make your work count.

Kia kaha, and this is not au revoir but à bientôt!

Annette Koo



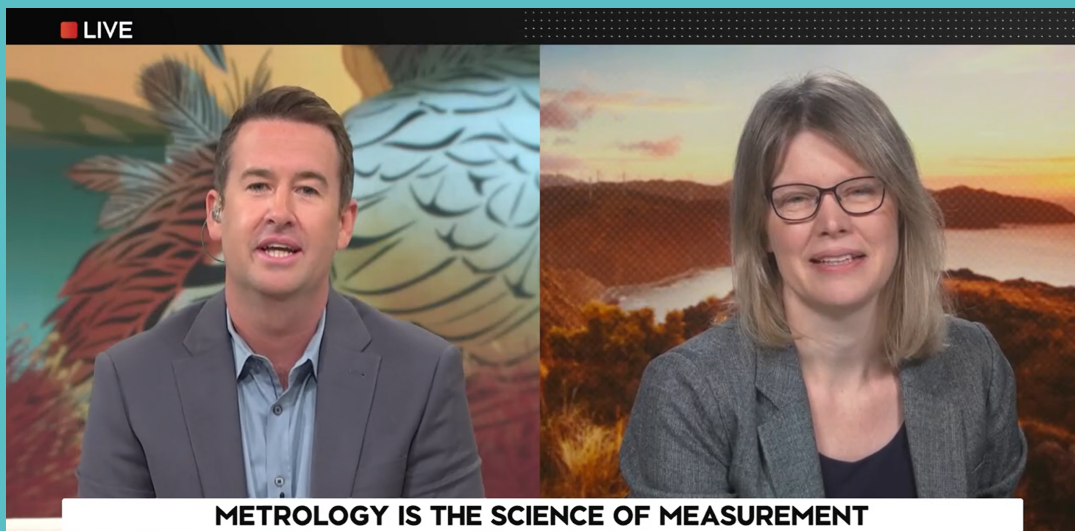
Dr Peter McDowall named as new Director of MSL

MSL pressure scientist to lead lab through a time of change.

Peter has been at MSL since 2019. He joined the lab as a research scientist in the Mass and Related Quantities team, and quickly rose to become the technical lead for Pressure standards. Peter joined the management group at MSL earlier this year, balancing his role as Team Leader for the Mass and Pressure, and Temperature and Humidity sections, with his lab work.

He said he is "feeling very motivated" about his new role. Speaking about his predecessor, Peter said, "The influence that Annette has had on MSL has been enormous. She has been a very steady hand. The systems, processes and practices she set up, and the relationships she has built, have put us in the best possible position. Yes, I'll bring a different voice, but ultimately my goal is to continue building on her work, providing stability and reassurance to our staff, stakeholders and customers."

 [Read more](#)



Breakfast with a side of Metrology

On 2 September, MSL's departing Director Annette appeared live on Television New Zealand (TVNZ) Breakfast to talk about the importance of metrology in daily life. And just a couple of hours later, she also had an interview on Radio New Zealand (RNZ) Nine to Noon, where she and host Kathryn discussed the international nature of metrology. Those in NZ can watch the Breakfast interview via the TVNZ app (2 September show, starts at the 1 hour 45 minute mark).

No matter where you are in the world, you can listen back to the RNZ interview [here](#):

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2019002478/how-the-world-s-measurement-body-wants-to-upsize>

Tim Armstrong

We are saddened to inform you that Dr Tim Armstrong passed away on 27 September 2025.

Tim was Director of MSL from 2008 until his retirement in 2016.

He was active in Time and Frequency metrology, including developments in satellite time transfer and advising the Police Calibration laboratory.



Together with Mark Fitzgerald, he carried out world-leading measurements of the Newtonian gravitational constant over 10 years with their work contributing to the setting of the 2014 internationally recommended value.

Evolution of service coverage for CIPM MRA participants

If you work at a National Metrology Institute (NMI) or a Designated Institute (DI), our latest report and dataset will be of interest to you. MSL is proposing a new approach to counting and classifying calibration and measurement capabilities (CMCs). We believe that this approach offers a more discerning way to measure the range of services available within an NMI/DI than the metric currently in use.

And while we've focused on the physics domain of the key comparison database, we believe that our approach is more broadly applicable.

Metrology community – we'd love to hear your thoughts on this. Click 'Find out more' to view the data and report. Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss it further.

*CIPM (International Committee of Weights and Measures)
MRA (Mutual Recognition Arrangement)*



Find out more



“We have an excellent, productive relationship with MSL.

We put all of our calibration engineers through MSL training courses, and we draw on your expertise around uncertainty budgets. And as technical assessors, MSL plays a key role in helping us gain IANZ accreditation for our services. Without that input, we wouldn't have the knowledge of understanding to move forward and grow our calibration labs.”

Paul Biddick, Calibration Coordinator, Air New Zealand

Do you follow MSL on LinkedIn?

Over the past few months, we've been hard at work developing and sharing interesting content specifically for our LinkedIn whānau. If you scroll through our page, you'll find fun / interesting facts – e.g. Did you know that NZ's electricity grid consists of almost 12,000 km of high-voltage lines which transmit electricity to 39 regional distribution networks? You'll also learn more about who we serve – everyone from hospitals and museums, to the food sector and NZ manufacturers. And finally, you'll hear what some of our customers have to say about working with MSL.

Here's an example from Air New Zealand:

MSL has worked with Air New Zealand for more than 20 years. The relationship that started via a calibration service agreement, has expanded and evolved ever since. It now includes training provision across a range of areas, such as temperature and length, and technical assessment for the accreditation of Air New Zealand's calibration labs. And in 2020, MSL apprentice Nina spent a month at Air New Zealand's facility in Christchurch.

When asked about the experience of working with NZ's national metrology lab, Paul Biddick, Calibration Coordinator at Air New Zealand, said:

"We have an excellent, productive relationship with MSL. We try to do as much calibration in-house as we can, but that's only been possible because of MSL's input over the years. Aviation is a highly-regulated sector, so procedures need to be followed exactly, and there's always a lot to learn. We put all of our calibration

engineers through MSL training courses, and we draw on your expertise around uncertainty budgets. And as technical assessors, MSL plays a key role in helping us gain IANZ accreditation for our services. Without that input, we wouldn't have the knowledge of understanding to move forward and grow our calibration labs."

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[MSL's Strategic Plan](#)

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