

ICA Training & Events

ICAspire | Bremen 2020



Monday 23 March

08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Collect your badge and meet your classmates over a coffee and pastry at the Private L.O.B.B.Y, Radisson Blu.
09:00 – 10:30	Learn Join Colin and Peter as they explore the major roles within the cotton industry; focusing on the challenges they face and how cotton professionals can best interact with each other to the benefit of the entire cotton community.
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:30	Learn Cont.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Build An exciting and interactive session exploring leadership, adaptability and business innovation lead by Bill and Mark.
15:00 – 15:30	Break
16:00 – 17:30	Build Cont.
19:00 – late	Networking Dinner Dress Code: Smart Casual Join us at the L.O.B.B.Y, Radisson Blu for dinner and drinks.

Leaders



Colin Iles

Executive Marketing Manager Cotton & Sugar, Glencore

After a brief stint in the City of London, Colin began his career in the cotton industry in 1995 with Cargill Cotton. His major focus was trading African origin cotton, which led to a posting in 2006 to Johannesburg to run Cargill's Southern and east African ginning business. In 2008 Colin moved to Cargill's headquarters in the US to become its Global Trading Manager, a position he held for nearly three years until 2011 when he transferred to Cargill's Geneva office to lead its sugar trading desk. After 16 years at Cargill, in 2012 Colin took up the opportunity to join Glencore to head up its cotton business, working out of its office in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Colin is an Alumnus of the London School of Economics.



Peter Wakefield

Managing Director, Wakefield Inspection Services

Peter Wakefield first joined Associated Surveyors and Test Laboratories in January 1979 as a trainee in the cotton controlling and marine surveying divisions. In 1983 he was invited to join Edward T Robertson and Son (ETR), the leading Cotton Controlling company of the time, as the Manager of their Taiwan office. Peter remained with ETR in Taiwan and later in the UK to 1993 when he assumed the position of Managing Director of Wakefield Inspection Services, the position he maintains today. In 1993 Peter was elected to join the then Liverpool Cotton Association (LCA) where he twice served as the Chairman of the Rules Committee. Accepting a position on the Board, Peter was further elected as second vice President of the LCA in 2003. After the change of name to the International Cotton Association (ICA) Peter was elected President in 2005. Peter remains active in the Association and is currently a Board member.



Bill Ballenden

CEO & Owner, Dragontree Commodity Trading

Bill joined the cotton business in 1996 as a trainee at Ralli Brothers & Coney in Liverpool. After spending a number of years in Liverpool and a year living in Abidjan, he moved in 2001 to join The Seam to build and manage their international cotton trading platform. In 2007 Bill joined Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) as a trader in Geneva. He then spent the years 2008 to 2014 managing LDC's cotton businesses in India and China, living in Gurgaon and then Beijing, and eventually managing the Asia region out of Beijing. In 2014 Bill was once again based in Geneva, managing the European & Black Sea regions, China, Singapore and Australia for LDC. At the end of 2017 Bill left LDC to start his own company, called Dragontree, focusing on online auctions for commodities. Bill has served as a Director of the ICA and as President from 2018-19.



Mark Pryor

CEO, The Seam

Mark Pryor is the Chairman and CEO of The Seam where he orchestrates the company's strategic initiatives including blockchain, commodities management, trading, clearing and software development solutions for agriculture. Mark was previously the Chief Technology Architect for The Seam when the company began in the year 2000. Mark began his career in banking software architecture which led to award-winning Internet and touch-screen banking products which were first-of-kind in the late 1990's. His further research and development in web-based technologies, resulted in the architecture of multi-industry software solutions in use today by agribusinesses throughout the global supply chain. Mark was recently featured in The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, NASDAQ, Fibre2Fashion, Just-Style and other industry news outlets for spearheading the formation of a global cotton industry blockchain consortium.