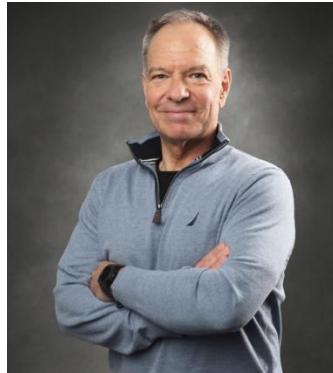


## FISITA announces appointment of new Corporate Board Chair



- Dr. Mircea Gradu announced as Chair of FISITA (UK) Ltd, Corporate Board

Dr. Mircea Gradu will commence his appointment as Chair of the FISITA (UK) Ltd, Corporate Board in January 2026, taking over from outgoing Chair Richard Gotch. Gotch has held the position since 2023 and has successfully overseen the implementation of the FISITA new era strategy, enabling FISITA to deliver its most successful period in its rich, 75-year history.

Dr. Gradu has served on the FISITA Corporate Board since 2022, bringing a wealth of international leadership experience from the automotive and mobility systems sector, and significant knowledge of the mission-led sector as a past President and Fellow of SAE International.

During his extensive tenure and leadership within the mobility industry, Dr. Gradu has consistently driven innovation and transformation across global organisations with a wide range of constituencies. His innovative and visionary leadership, hands-on knowledge of professional organisations, financial, commercial and technical depth, and commitment to collaboration uniquely position him as the next Chair of the FISITA Corporate Board.

In support of this appointment, FISITA CEO, Chris Mason, said,

**"Having worked with Mircea for many years, we recognise his industry status and significant C-suite experience. We'll benefit from his influence, dedication to building strong relationships across sectors and his entrepreneurial mindset - all of which will support FISITA achieve its business objectives and advance our organisational influence and impact."**

Recognised as one of *Motor Trend's* 50 most influential automotive executives, Dr. Gradu has held key roles within SAE International, from Technical Committee Chair to Board Member, to Vice President Automotive and 2018 President and Board Chairman. Dr. Gradu is a recipient of the SAE Edward N. Cole Award for Automotive Innovation and of several other notable SAE awards.

Dr. Gradu was also a founding board member of the Cybersecurity Automotive Information Sharing & Analysis Center (Auto-ISAC) and an Executive Council Member of USCAR (United States Council for Automotive Research).

Dr. Gradu's extensive C-level executive and Board experience includes a track record of product development and successful market deployment with leading global automotive OEMs and suppliers. He served as Corporate Officer and Vice President, Transmission Powertrain and Driveline for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, as Engineering Executive Director at Timken Automotive, and led Engineering and Quality at Hyundai Motor America. With a passion for cutting-edge emerging technologies, he worked in the Bay Area as Chief Quality and Product Officer at Velodyne Lidar, a pioneer of smart technology solutions for vehicle autonomy. Most recently, as Chief Engineering Officer, Dr. Gradu led the development and industrialisation of fuel cell engines at Ballard Power Systems, a top supplier of the bus, truck, off-highway, rail, marine and stationary fuel cell applications.

Dr. Gradu holds a Doctorate in Engineering from the Technical University of Stuttgart, Germany. He has been extensively published, holds over 60 patents, and had an appointment as Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Irvine, as well as advisory board positions at leading international universities and research organisations.

"I am proud to be appointed as Chair of the FISITA Corporate Board. I recognise and thank Richard for his leadership and guidance during his excellent tenure. We now move into the next phase of FISITA's evolution, and I am delighted to do so with the full support of our Executive and Corporate Board and global community as we navigate the ever-changing challenges in our industry."

– *Mircea Gradu, Chair, FISITA Corporate Board*

## **About FISITA**

FISITA is the international membership alliance for the technology of mobility engineering community. Founded in 1948, FISITA supports knowledge sharing and collaboration among leaders and engineers, advancing the technology of mobility worldwide.

The FISITA (UK) Ltd Board is the corporate board of FISITA, responsible for financial compliance and governance as well as planning, delivery, sustainability and all corporate, personnel and regulatory and corporate governance compliance. Supporting leaders and engineers in the pre-competitive space, it recognises the power of bringing together different perspectives to deliver real change throughout the complete technology of mobility ecosystem.

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