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BREXIT: Only time will tell

Since the UK's decision to leave the EU on 23 June, with 52 percent of voters opting to exit, there has been a lot of uncertainty around what the next steps are for the captive insurance industry.

Aon released a statement suggesting it will likely be some time before there is a clear picture of the implications on the insurance industry. There has also been plenty of discussion about how Brexit will affect the likes of Gibraltar.

UK captive owners with captives based in Gibraltar or EU states could be affected by the vote, whereas non-EU states, such as Guernsey and Bermuda, should, in theory, remain relatively unaffected by Brexit.

The industry has also questioned what will happen with regards to the EU's Solvency II Directive. Industry experts remain certain that the regime will stay in place, considering the amountof time and investment that has been put into implementation already.

There is concern, however, that if the UK ultimately decides against remaining Solvency II equivalent, this could cause a negative impact on the counterparty credit ratings of unrated insurers.

The vote to exit the EU has led to significant political fallout in the UK, including the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron. But the UK is yet to activate Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which will begin the two-year process of withdrawal from the EU.

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NC senate passes new captive bill

Proposed amendments to the North Carolina Captive Insurance Act are currently under consideration by the state's lawmakers, according to the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

The amendments include a captive insurance company exemption from in-state board meetings, if the captive insurance company utilises at least two North Carolina-based service providers.

These services can include legal, accounting, actuarial, investment advisory, captive management, and others that are deemed acceptable to the commissioner.

Another important proposed legislative change is the requirement to provide the commissioner with additional discretion to establish the minimum required capital and surplus for a protected cell captive.

The current law requires a minimum of $250,000, but the proposal would allow the commissioner to set the minimum requirement below that, if it is sufficient to support the captive insurer's risk profile.

Other changes include provisional approval for a captive licence for a period of up to 90 days, with amendments allowing for extensions under certain conditions.

Under this amendment the commissioner will also have the ability to limit and rescind the authority of any provisional license at any time.

There have also been minor technical amendments to rules regarding the formations of captive insurance companies; conflict of interest; plan of operation change; insurance manager and intermediaries; extension for filing the annual reports; licence suspension or revocation; and clarification of the annual filing requirements for protected cell captive company applicants.

The North Carolina captive programme, which launched in 2013, reported that in 2015 it saw economic benefits reach $15.3 million. For 2014 and 2015, the total North Carolina economic impact was $18 million and 50 new jobs were created.

Debbie Walker, deputy commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Insurance, commented: "[The amendments] are currently being considered by the general assembly and appear to be moving through the process quickly."

"We treat our act as a living document monitoring it on a regular basis and making changes as we feel are appropriate to remain relevant and competitive."

Guernsey to work with Chinese captive sector

The Guernsey International Insurance Association (GIIA) has signed an agreement with both the China Captive Alliance and the Kashgar government to further develop China's captive insurance market.

The agreement means they will cooperate on captive insurance market development; financial innovation; to promote the viability of the Chinese captive market; and on communication between China and the international captive industry.

Charles Scott, managing director of independent Alternative Risk Management, signed the agreement on behalf of GIIA, alongside Yongjie Liu, general manager of the China Captive Alliance.

Scott said: "[The agreement] establishes a very important framework for the cooperation and development of our two jurisdictions in the area of insurance, specifically captives."

"It also means that Guernsey is now well positioned to benefit from captive

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opportunities in the international arena that emerge from Chinese corporates."

Fenglin Xu, deputy director of the Kashgar Trade Development Zone, said: "The signing of the [agreement] between ourselves and Guernsey is an important step to enhance the captive insurance market in China."

Increase in captives accessing TRIA

The number of Marsh-managed captives accessing the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) following its reauthorisation has increased by 17 percent, from 93 in 2014 to 109 in 2015.

The Marsh 2016 Terrorism Risk Insurance Report also revealed that many captives that could offer a terrorism insurance programme currently do not.

The US Treasury has begun to consider whether to apply TRIA to self-insurance arrangements, including captive insurance companies, prompted by passage of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (TRIPRA) last year, which extended the programme until 2020.

The programme is designed to allow for terrorism coverage similar to other insured peril, and provides compensation for insured losses resulting from a certified act of terrorism.

Marsh's report found that since 2015, take-up rates for TRIA coverage embedded in property policies have increased from 59 percent to 61 percent.

It claimed that large companies are more likely to purchase TRIA coverage, and also see the lowest cost as a percentage of overall property premiums.

In 2015, media organisations had the highest take-up rate of TRIA.

According to the report, standalone property terrorism insurance capacity remained constant year-on-year.

Standalone property terrorism coverage can be more competitively priced and offer wider coverage than TRIA coverage. In addition, standalone property terrorism policies can provide critical terrorism and political violence coverage to clients' operations outside of the US.

With terrorism and cyber both on the increase, the report asked how TRIA would respond to cyber terrorism.

It suggested: "The language of TRIA is silent on cyber as a vector attack."

"A cyber terrorism event that meets TRIPRA's prerequisites, including being certified as terrorism by the secretary of Treasury, should be eligible for coverage under TRIPRA. As a result, many lines of coverage could be triggered by a cyber terrorism event."

The report also stated that TRIA would likely not respond to losses under cyber insurance policies because, when it was first enacted, this type of risk was not included as a covered line of insurance.

According to the report: "Although pricing and take-up of terrorism insurance has remained relatively stable through the years, organisations should regularly assess their needs and mitigation strategies."

"The changing nature of terrorist attacks globally has caused the risk management and insurance industry to explore coverage enhancements that further address risks related to business disruption and extra expenses. With a thorough understanding of terrorism exposures and cost-effective risk transfer options, organisations can better assess, manage, and respond to their terrorism risks."

Tennessee captive insurance bill update strengthens market

Recent updates to Tennessee's captive legislation have strengthened its captive market, according to the Tennessee Captive Insurance Association (TCIA).

The legislation, approved in April by governor Bill Haslam, is the third update to the revised Tennessee Captive Insurance Act of 2011.

Currently, Tennessee has 133 captive insurance companies and 321 cell companies, for a total of 454 risk-bearing entities.

"The captive insurance industry operates in a competitive, fast moving environment that demands competitors keep pace or be left behind," said Michael Corbett, director of the captive insurance section for the state.

"Tennessee must be nimble and forward-looking if we are going to surpass the goals we've established and continue our unprecedented growth. I'm grateful for the foresight that governor Bill Haslam and commissioner Julie Mix McPeak have shown by supporting these changes in the legislation."

The 2016 legislation updates included a new way for captives to redomesticate to the state.

Captives redomesticating from offshore to Tennessee are now eligible to forego paying premium taxes in either the first or second year of their operation, providing they either commit to staying for five years or pay back the foregone premium tax with interest.

Changes also included updates to the protected cell law and self-procurement tax.

TCIA chairman and president Kevin Doherty said: "With this legislation in place, if you are a Tennessee business there is now no reason to have your captive based anywhere else."

Bermuda to introduce limited liability company legislation

The Bermuda government has proposed the introduction of limited liability company (LLC) legislation based on Delaware's statute.

The core of the new Bermuda LLC legislation is largely based on the same provisions from the Limited Liability Company Act in Delaware.

Conyers Dill & Pearman anticipates that this approach will be welcomed by US counsel, as Bermuda LLCs will be familiar to them in both form and substance and will benefit from existing practice and jurisprudence in relation to the corresponding Delaware provisions.

The state of Hawaii celebrates 30 years of captive insurance

Hawaii has celebrated 30 years of being in the captive insurance business.

The US state's captive insurance legislation was enacted into law on 29 May 1986.

Since that date, Hawaii has been ranked the fifth largest US captive domicile based on the total number of active captive licences.

It has also written more than $4.34 billion in premium volume and invested over $1.26 billion in assets through Hawaii banks.

It has also generated more than $21.8 million in economic benefits.

Hawaii insurance commissioner Gordon Ito commented: "The captive insurance market is becoming increasingly competitive with additional domiciles vying for the attention of companies."

"With Hawaii captive branch's team of experts, dedication and efficiency, we are able to continually attract captive owners from the US and abroad that want to leverage our expertise to help them achieve their risk management objectives."

Cell captives and TRIA the answer to fund vital coverage

Cell captives and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) could be an economical way to fund vital coverage, according to JLT Towner Insurance Management.

According to JLT, as socio-political events intensify, risk managers are giving more consideration on how to finance their increasing risk exposures, including terrorism.

Captive insurance companies can access the federal terrorism backstop for qualifying events, however, JLT suggested that risk managers might be missing the opportunity to utilise the benefits of a cell captive to meet terrorism risk and other exposures.

Thomas Stokes, managing principal and US consulting practice leader of JLT Towner Insurance Management, said: “For example, organisations cannot create a cell captive for the sole purpose of taking advantage of the federal insurance backstop. But when terrorism coverage is either unavailable or exorbitantly priced, using a cell captive to assume related risk can make sense.”

Stokes noted that if insurance companies choose to use the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program (TRIP), they need to follow all the steps necessary steps to ensure coverage.

The US Treasury has recently proposed rules on whether to apply TRIA to self-insurance arrangements, including captive insurance companies, prompted by passage of the TRIP Reauthorization Act (TRIPRA) last year, which extended the programme until 2020.

The programme is designed to allow for terrorism coverage much in the same way as other insured perils.

It also provides compensation for insured losses resulting from a certified act of terrorism.

He said: “They include Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department recognition of an incorporated cell as a qualified insurance company for federal backstop purposes, which we have already gained.”

According to JLT, a cell captive offers additional benefits including quicker licensing and fewer expenses.

‘Excellent’ ratings for NextEra captive

A.M. Best has affirmed the financial strength rating of “A (Excellent)” and the issuer credit ratings of “a” of NextEra Energy’s captive Palms Insurance Company, based in the Cayman Islands.

Palms Insurance Company is the wholly owned captive insurer of NextEra Energy Capital, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy, an American energy company.

The ratings reflect the captive’s strong integration within the risk management structure of its parent, NextEra Energy Capital, A.M. Best said.

The captive only accepts insurance risks from NextEra Energy and its affiliates, providing specialised direct and assumed property and casualty coverages, workers’ compensation, automobile liability, employers’ liability and property risk.

According to A.M. Best, Palms is well positioned at its current rating level and the ratings are not likely to be revised in the near term.

VCIA expects to surpass 1,000 at annual conference

The Vermont Captive Insurance Association (VCIA) is expecting to attract more than 1,000 attendees to its 31st annual conference. The conference, taking place from 9 to 11 August, will feature keynote speakers David Pogue,


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the founder of Yahoo Tech, and Chuck Davis, CEO of Stone Point Capital.

'VCIA 2016: Lights, Camera, Captives' will be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington.

Compre agrees its fourth acquisition with Rigwell Fox & Partners

Compre has acquired Allianz IARD's Rigwell Fox & Partners (RFP) pool legacy reinsurance business for an undisclosed sum.

The deal comes after Compre's March acquisition of QBE's RFP reinsurance business.

RFP is a reinsurance pool containing run-off liabilities of Allianz IARD and five other insurance carriers.

Nick Steer, CEO of Compre, commented: "I am extremely pleased to announce our fourth acquisition of the year, which highlights the increased appetite in Europe for legacy services."

"[The transaction] also underlines our ability to provide complete finality for complex pool arrangements and we hope to complete further transactions of this type during 2016."

A.M. Best reviews Ironshore ratings

A.M. Best has removed Ironshore's status of "under review with negative implications" and affirmed its financial strength rating as "A (Excellent)" with a negative outlook.

The ratings company placed Ironshore's rating on negative outlook, reflecting A.M. Best's concern around Ironshore's ultimate parent company, Fosun International.

According to A.M. Best, the negative outlook reflects the drag related to the credit profile and high debt leverage measures of Fosun.

A.M. Best suggested rating factors that could lead to negative rating actions include the inability of Ironshore to make steady progress towards an initial public offering within a reasonable time frame, and a deterioration in Fosun's credit profile.

HSP and USA Risk to partner up

Hanover Stone Partners (HSP) and USA Risk Group have agreed to collaborate on captive management, governance and other related services.

The partnership will provide businesses and other commercial entities with the full range of their alternative risk financing activities, including using captives to self-fund US employee benefits.

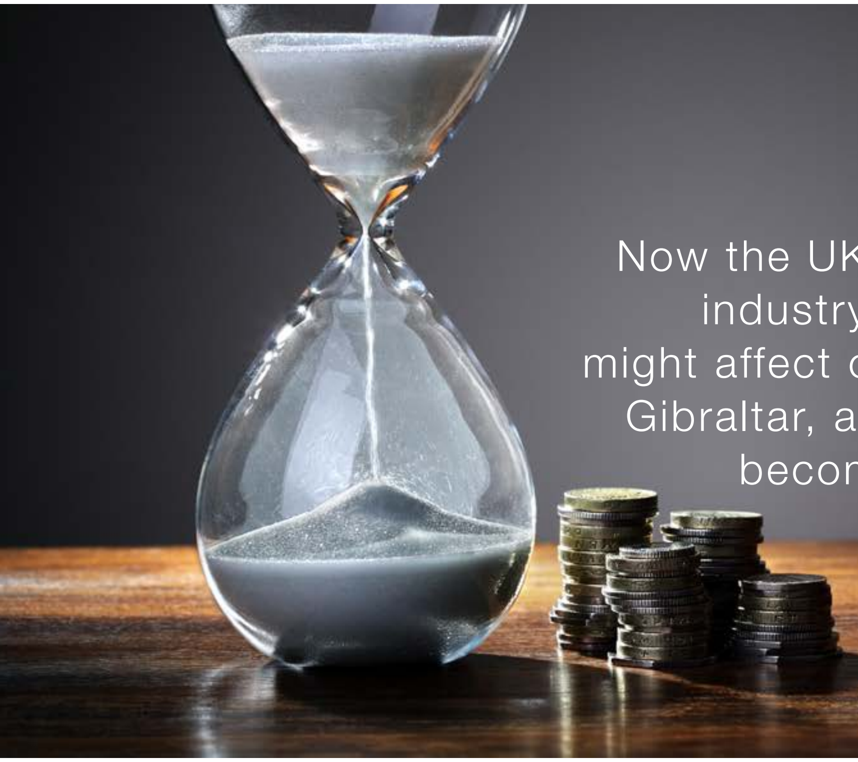
John Kelly, managing partner of HSP, commented: "Captive formations and utilisation continue to expand as businesses find new uses for captives—especially given the current drive to self-fund employee benefits under the US Affordable Care Act, as well as their ongoing involvement in property-casualty programmes to increase retentions, fill gaps in insurance programmes, and address complex and emerging risks."

USA Risk Group's Gary Osborne added: "We're excited to be part of their network and look forward to our work together."

Aon helps Freddie Mac hit milestone

Aon Risk Solutions and Aon Benfield have assisted Freddie Mac to reach a $5 billion issuance milestone in credit risk transfer.

The milestone comes after Freddie Mac started three new insurance and reinsurance policies under its Agency Credit Insurance Structure (ACIS) programme. The three policies provide a combined maximum limit of approximately $788 million of losses on single-family loans.



It's a waiting game

Now the UK has voted to leave the EU, industry experts explain how Brexit might affect captive insurance in the UK, Gibraltar, and elsewhere, and what will become of the Solvency II regime

The UK's decision to leave the EU, made on 23 June and handed down on 24 June, has shocked the world, with many not expecting such a decision. The vote, at 52 percent for and 48 percent against, showed that it was too close to call, so whatever your business, you could be forgiven for not planning ahead.

The initial reaction of the captive insurance market was mixed. The vote to leave the EU could affect UK-based parents with captives in Gibraltar or EU states. Meanwhile in non-EU states, such as Guernsey and Bermuda, there is likely to be no direct impact on the captive.

According to Martin Le Pelley, finance director at Artex Risk Solutions, UK companies with captives should conduct a review of the location and risk it is insuring.

Le Pelley notes that some risks can be written on a non-admitted basis, meaning that the insurer does not need a licence in the jurisdiction where the risks are located in order to insure them.

He says the prospect of Brexit will have no impact on business written on a non-admitted basis.

For captives located in Gibraltar, he says, there will be no impact on a captive's activities if it has a UK owner with only UK risks. However, the captive may need to redomicile or seek an EU licence to continue writing EU risks directly, at least until a trade deal is established between the UK and the EU.

Le Pelley says: "If the captive is located in Malta or Luxembourg, then it may need to obtain a licence to continue to write UK risks, in the absence of a trade deal. It would seem unlikely that the UK would finalise its exit from the EU without these trade deals in place."

This means that in the short term, there is likely to be no impact on captives.

From a practical perspective, Le Pelley says it is possible that certain risk may become more expensive to insure in the traditional market, such as credit risk or trading risks. This is due to the downgrading of the UK sovereign credit rating and the uncertainty over trading relations with the EU.

Immediately after the results of the referendum were finalised, the value of the British pound fell to a 31-year low against the dollar. Le Pelley suggests that the foreign exchange volatility is of a concern to companies that are writing business in more than one currency.

He says: "The investment landscape has been depressed for some considerable time now, and most captives have become used to low investment returns. In fact, as most captives are designed principally for risk management purposes, the key focus of boards is the underwriting performance of the company, and not the investment return."

Gibraltar

Nigel Feetham, a partner at Hassans International Law Firm, suggests that Brexit could bring opportunities for Gibraltar's captive insurance market.

Feetham says that the higher capital requirements for captives in the EU, under the new Solvency II regime, mean that EU-based captives have become capital-inefficient for some owners.

This means captive owners have either chosen to relocate their captives outside of the EU or use fronting arrangements.

Feetham claims that a post-Brexit scenario therefore could give rise to an opportunity for Gibraltar in an area where, under current EU rules, it would not have been able to compete for business.

He explains: "For this to happen Gibraltar would require a new legislative framework to permit captive owners to set up captives in Gibraltar with less burdensome capital requirements similar to, say, Guernsey. The current legislative regime in Gibraltar is wholly unsuitable for this."

However, Le Pelley suggests that Gibraltar is keen to maintain its market access to the EU, and will be pushing the UK to maintain its freedom of services access, perhaps through an European economic area-style trade agreement.

In this case, Gibraltar will have no flexibility to change its regulatory regime, as Solvency II equivalence would be a requirement for such a deal.

If the passporting rights come to an end, Le Pelley advises that Gibraltar would still need to maintain equivalent regulation to the UK in order for Gibraltar companies to insure UK-wide risks.

Feetham predicts that Brexit will trigger a boost in the use of Gibraltar protected cell companies by captives in such a scenario. He says: “In this regard, the sooner the UK negotiates with the EU the better it would be for Gibraltar, as it would end any uncertainty and both the UK and Gibraltar can plan accordingly.”

Feetham notes that the existing trading relationship between Gibraltar with the UK will not be directly affected by Brexit, however, he recommends captives that write EU business to consider their positions in the same way as any other companies writing EU business should.

Guernsey

In Guernsey, the situation is completely different, because the island, although a British crown dependency, is not in the EU. This means that it does not have freedom of service access to EU markets, and gives it the freedom to implement regulations to suit its markets.

Guernsey captives can only write business directly into other jurisdictions on a non-admitted basis, meaning rules are structured to suit market participants. Le Pelley reveals that this was achieved in the Insurance Business Rules 2015, which are fully compliant with Insurance Association Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) core principles, but are not necessarily Solvency II equivalent.

According to Guernsey officials, the island is well placed to ensure any impact Brexit might have on its trading relationships is minimised. They have also assured that Guernsey will put in place any alternative trading agreement required.

Gavin St Pier, Guernsey’s chief minister, said: “Following the UK decision to leave the EU in this referendum nothing will change overnight in the relationships Guernsey has with the EU, or the UK for that matter.”

He added: “We will be monitoring the economic impact of this significant constitutional change for the UK and we will be engaging with business and with the Committee for Economic Development to understand this knock on effect to our economy.”

Dominic Wheatley, chief executive of Guernsey Finance, commented: “We note the decision of the people of the UK to leave the EU. However, although the decision is clear, we have yet to see how it will be implemented and the new world that will be formed in this process.”

“We will be monitoring developments closely to assess the impact of this on Guernsey and the financial markets in which we operate.”

Solvency II

Since the out-vote was announced, UK companies have been speculating about whether the vote to leave will have any effect on the Solvency II regime, launched on 1 January this year.

Given that the UK is currently an EU member state and is currently in the process of applying Solvency II, Le Pelley questions why the UK would not continue to be Solvency II compliant after finalising its exit from the union.

One benefit from exiting the EU, Le Pelley notes, is that the UK may have greater flexibility to amend its insurance regulations, and perhaps implement a bifurcated regime, similar to Bermuda’s, which would allow for a different regulatory approach for captives.

He said: “If the UK is also able to maintain passporting rights through a trade agreement with the EU, this would ensure that the UK’s insurance industry would remain relatively unchanged by Brexit.”

Jonathan Howe, PwC’s UK insurance leader, argues that Solvency II will almost certainly remain.

He suggests that too much time and effort has been invested into the regulation, adding that it is already enshrined in UK law.

Many non-UK insurance companies from areas such as the US and Asia currently use the UK as their European headquarters and as a ‘gateway’ into Europe through passporting, says Howe.

If the UK chooses not to continue to be Solvency II equivalent, Le Pelley insists there would be a negative impact on the counterparty credit rating of unrated insurers, which would put them at a disadvantage when trading with the EU.

Le Pelley says: “It is hard to see why Brexit will damage the captive insurance industry as a whole.”

“Most parts of the industry will be unaffected by the UK’s exit from the EU,” Le Pelley explains.

“Depending on the terms of the exit, it may be the case that the industry will be enhanced by the decision, rather than damaged by it.” **CIT**

Cyber Risk: are you ready?

Adam Peckman of Aon Risk Solutions reveals Aon's first captive cyber survey results and explains how a captive can challenge the evolving threat of cyber risk

What were the main findings of the report?

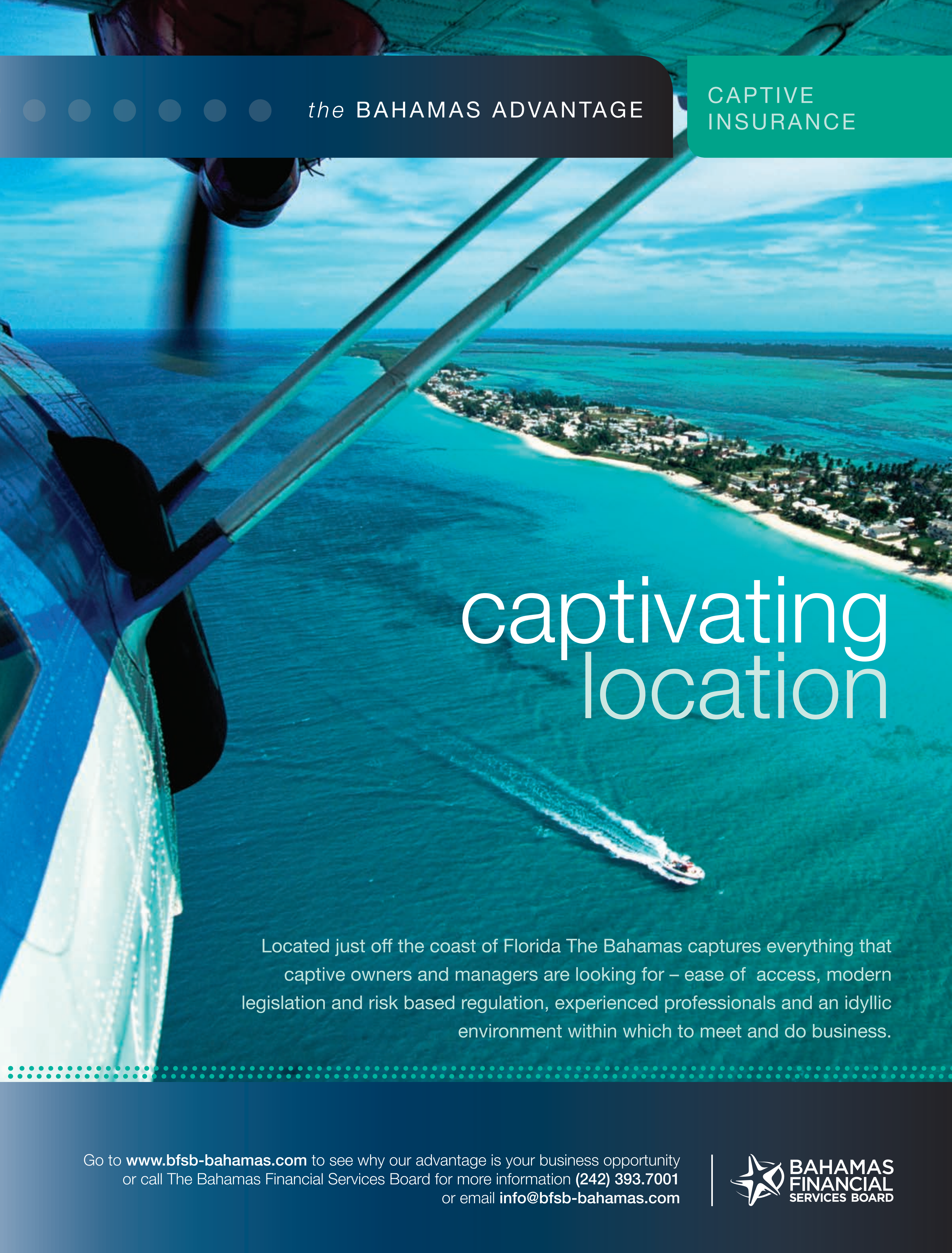
Indicative of both the rapid application of new digital strategies, growing dependency on technology to support critical business processes, and the evolving threat environment, business interruption due to a breach was rated as the top cyber risk concern for the participants in our recent survey. Meanwhile, bodily injury/property damage (first and third party) was rated as their lowest concern.

Additional highlights include that only 59 percent of companies have used a formal risk assessment process to help inform their insurance buying decision, and a mere 51 percent of companies would value an independently administered cyber risk assessment.

Some 61 percent of survey respondents said they buy cyber limits in the $10-25 million range, but overall, 60 percent of large companies don't buy cyber insurance. Of those that do, 68 percent of companies surveyed buy cyber for balance sheet protection, making this the most popular reason, closely followed by ensuring due diligence comfort for the board.

The survey found that 25 percent of respondents that buy limits are confident that they comply with international best practices and standards for information security governance.

Also, 95 percent of companies stated clear policy wording as the most important issue in the cyber risk market, and 75 percent of large companies expressed concerns about the loss adjustment process.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> **Developing and maintaining a cyber risk assessment approach requires cross-departmental collaboration and must ultimately translate cyber exposures into financial impact**

Adam Peckman,
Director of consulting, Aon Risk Solutions

Finally, the survey shows that 94 percent of companies would share risk with others in their industry as part of a captive facility writing cyber.

Do you expect to see an increase in the number of companies using captives to cover cyber risks?

Aon's Captive & Insurance Management team anticipates alternative risk transfer options to become increasingly sought after, as these solutions give companies some control over underwriting, coverage scope and claims adjustment, while providing an opportunity to share best practices, experience and data in a private setting.

Consequently, the extent to which these alternative risk transfer options are pursued will depend on the market's ability to keep pace with client needs.

In Aon's Captive Benchmarking Survey, participation in cyber by captives rose by roughly 30 percent in 2016, and this trend of growth is expected to continue.

Should larger, sophisticated companies not perceive the market keeping pace with their requirements, it is foreseeable that there would be industry type mutual entities established to give some control over underwriting, coverage scope and claims adjustment.

What are the benefits of a company funding cyber through a captive?

Our study has shown that for many companies a divergence still exists between recognising cyber as a fast evolving risk to the corporate balance sheet and understanding the coverages required to best mitigate the exposure—71 percent of surveyed companies listed terms and conditions as their most important issue in the cyber risk market place.

This was followed by pricing, highlighted by 48 percent.

Accordingly, captives are a great alternative risk transfer solution for bridging this divergence while solutions from the insurance industry catch up to meet the challenge of this evolving cyber risk frontier.

By including cyber risk in a captive, rather than simply self-insuring the risk, the company gets the opportunity to evaluate how the risk will behave in a formal insurance structure subject to underwriting and claims adjustment disciplines.

Over time, that experience and data can be used to negotiate programme structures with insurance carriers and to inform cost allocations of cyber loss.

Insureds place cyber exposures in captives for a number of different reasons:

- As an in-fill programme for high deductible cyber or professional indemnity programme;
- Using the captive to retain the primary layer of risk;
- Using the captive to access re-insurance capacity;
- Using the captive to incubate where broad coverage is currently unavailable; and
- For investment of captive profits into cyber risk control programmes.

What is the three-step approach Aon suggests for assessing cyber risk?

Although the utilisation of a formal cyber risk assessment to determine the financial exposure from cyber was surprisingly low (59 percent), we maintain that conducting such an assessment is a useful tool for improving risk understanding and consequently, developing suitable risk transfer strategies, including captive utilisation for cyber.

Developing and maintaining a cyber risk assessment approach requires cross-departmental collaboration and must ultimately translate cyber exposures into financial impact.

Aon recommends the following steps:

- Scenario Analysis: Benchmark the existing cyber risk profile and work with business stakeholders to prioritise cyber risk scenarios.
- Financial Modelling: Leverage advanced financial simulation tools using deterministic modeling to quantify first and third party costs of select cyber scenarios. Consider performing an analysis on non-damage business interruption scenarios using forensic accounting capabilities.
- Insurability Risk Review: Test the adequacy of limits against the assessed cyber risk as well as review the optimisation of the proposed insurance programme. **CIT**


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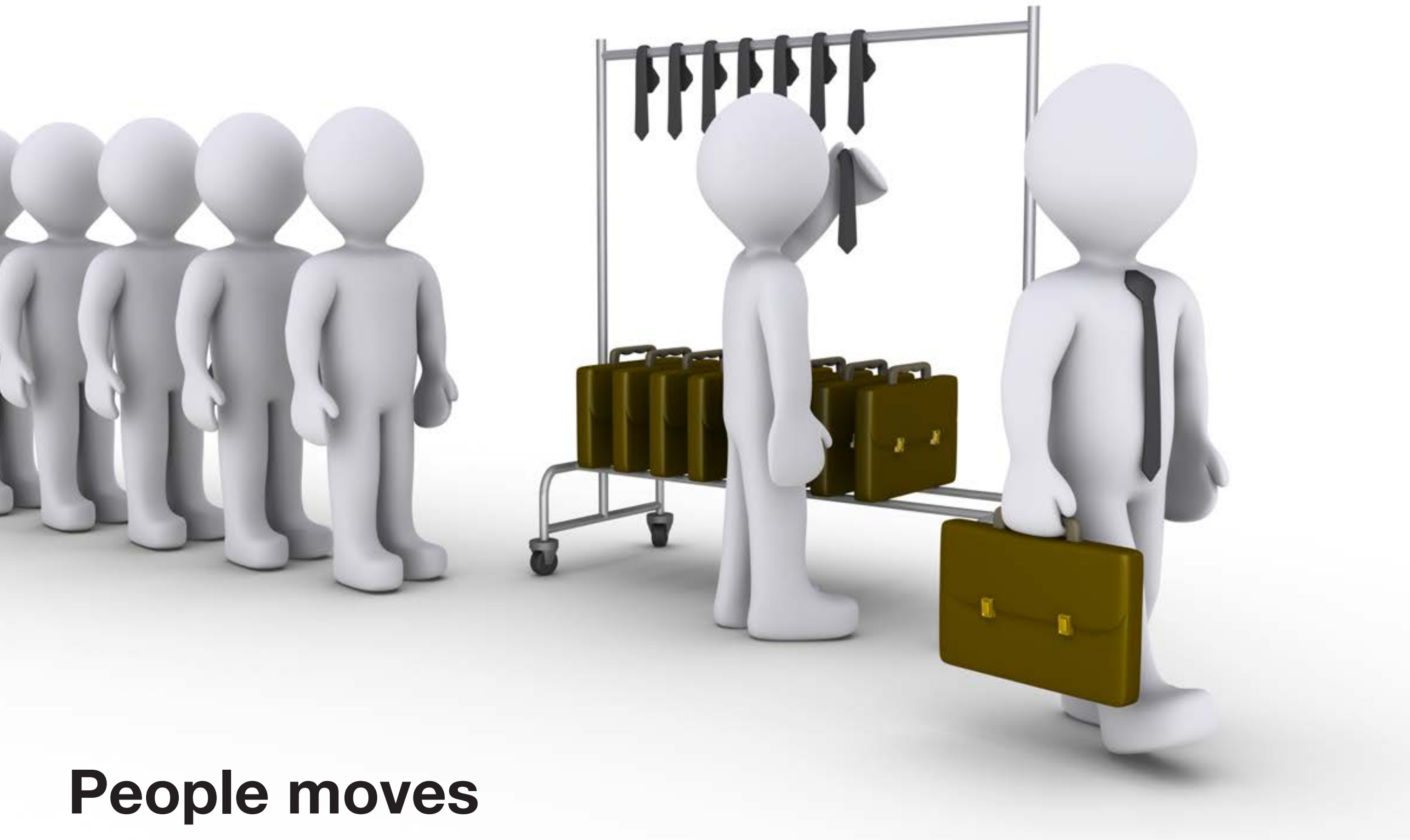

People moves

Arrivals and departures at CICA, TDCI, Allianz GCS and more

Dennis Harwick, president of the Captive Insurance Companies Association (CICA) will retire from his position at the end of June 2017.

Harwick has been president of CICA since 2005 when the association created the full-time president position.

He commented: “It has been a singular honour and privilege to serve as president of CICA over the past decade of change within both CICA and the captive insurance industry.”

Michael Bemi, CICA board chair, added: “Dennis Harwick will continue to deliver outstanding leadership to CICA’s membership up to his retirement and looks forward to organising a highly successful international conference in March, 2017.”

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance commissioner Julie McPeak has been elected to serve as vice chair of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) executive committee.

McPeak, who has served on the IAIS executive committee for the last two years, was also elected as vice president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) in February.

She said: “I am honoured and pleased to represent the US and state insurance regulators as vice chair. We will continue to work on behalf of consumers and ensure consumer protection both in the US and abroad in the creation and implementation of international insurance standards.”

Other appointments to the IAIS board include NAIC president-elect and Wisconsin insurance commissioner Ted Nickel, and Texas nsurance commissioner David Mattax.

Connecticut insurance commissioner Katharine Wade was appointed to the IAIS financial stability and technical committee.

Allianz Global Corporate & Speciality (AGCS) has named Jack Jenner as country manager for its Dubai-based offices, effective 1 September.

Jenner will lead the Dubai branch of AGCS’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Allianz Risk Transfer AG, which covers the Middle East region, providing facultative reinsurance for corporate, industrial and specialty risks.

He will be based in Dubai and will report to Carsten Scheffel, chief regions and markets officer and member of the board of management at AGCS.

Jenner will replace Willem van Wyk, who has relocated back to Australia to lead AGCS’s business in the Pacific region.

Scheffel, said: “The Middle East region is an area of huge opportunity for AGCS and Jack Jenner is ideally placed to drive our growth

there. With his diverse and international experience of underwriting, marketing, operational and sales management, he will build on the strong foundations laid down by Willem van Wyk over the past 12 months."

Aon has appointed Luke Foord-Kelcey as the new co-head of Aon Benfield's global cyber practice group.

Foord-Kelcey, who will be based in London, will be responsible for leading the cyber team.

He will drive the firm's business strategy to enhance Aon Benfield's cyber offering to insurers and reinsurers, alongside co-head Bill Henriques.

Prior to his new role, Foord-Kelcey served as an insurance manager for Tindall Riley.

Eric Andersen, CEO of Aon Benfield, commented: "Luke Foord-Kelcey's appointment brings further impetus to the market's drive to tackle cyber risk."

"This emerging class with unique characteristics requires his proven track record in this field to help our insurer clients to effectively protect their cyber business through specialist reinsurance programmes."

JLT Re has appointed Mark Shumway as global head of strategic advisory, based in the firm's Philadelphia office.

Shumway will report to David Flandro, JLT Re's global head of analytics.

Flandro said: "We are delighted to welcome Mark Shumway to our team. [Shumway's] expertise will be a great asset to JLT Re in continuing to provide new insights to fit the unique needs of our clients."

Shumway joins from Guy Carpenter, where he served as managing director and head of strategic advisory for the Asia Pacific region.

Crawford & Company has named Harsha Agadi as its new president and CEO.

Agadi has served as interim president and CEO since August 2015 and will continue to serve as member of the Crawford board of directors.

Charles Ogburn, Crawford's non-executive chairman of the board, commented: "During Harsha Agadi's interim leadership period, he made some tough but necessary changes that helped move Crawford toward profitable growth."

He added: "He thinks strategically and has the results-oriented approach necessary to help us navigate through an expanding and ever-evolving industry."

Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty (AGCS) has named Paul O'Neill as chief of underwriting specialty, effective 1 October.

O'Neill, who will be based in London, will also become a member of the board of management for AGCS.

In his new role, he will oversee the energy, marine, aviation and entertainment lines of business.

He succeeds Bill Scaldaferri, who will serve on the AGCS board responsible for the North America team, effective 1 July. CIT

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