

Mike O'Driscoll,

Wednesday, 20 July 2022, awarded Honorary Doctor of Science (Hon DSc)
with oration given by Professor James Hayton

Chancellor

Our honorary graduand this morning is an industry leader famed for the impact of his leadership across the automotive and engineering sectors. I am delighted to present MIKE O'DRISCOLL.

In fact, Mike and this University need no introduction to one another! He is a Warwick graduate, one of the cohort of students from the first year of Warwick Business School's Executive MBA programme some 30 years ago. At the time, he was working for Jaguar Rover Triumph as a Business Student and he remained with Jaguar for 35 years, moving steadily upwards in the managerial hierarchy. His career took him to North America in 1987 as Marketing and Product Manager for Jaguar Cars; as US Sales Manager from

1992 to 1995, followed by several years in senior management positions in the Ford Motor Company (Jaguar's parent company at the time); as President of Jaguar Cars North America, 2000, and President of Aston Martin, Jaguar Land Rover's North American subsidiary, from 2001 to 2007. He returned to the UK in 2007, as Managing Director, Jaguar Cars, a position which he held until his retirement in 2011. At that point, he joined the Board of Williams Grand Prix Holdings as Non-Executive Director, and from 2013 until 2020 was Group CEO of Williams Formula One Team and Williams Advanced Engineering. Since 2021, he has been Security Adviser to New York based Carderock Associates.

This brief outline of Mike's career gives little hint of the hugely important changes in the automotive industry with which he was personally involved. In 2007, for example, he was part of a small team appointed by Ford to oversee the sale of the Jaguar and Land Rover businesses, culminating in the successful sale to Tata Motors. As Managing Director of Jaguar in this new situation, it fell to Mike to oversee the revitalization of the Jaguar brand with the introduction of an all-new product line –up. This included

the launch of the award-winning XF, XJ and XK, and culminated in the introduction of the stunning C-X75 hybrid supercar concept which he personally unveiled at the Paris Salon in the autumn of 2010. As Group CEO of Williams, he oversaw the development and growth of Williams Advanced Engineering which he has described as being 'at the very core of the electric vehicle revolution that's sweeping the world'. More recently, he oversaw the successful sale of both the Advanced Engineering Business and the F1 team, during a challenging period of unprecedented financial uncertainty, playing a pivotal role in securing their long-term futures.

Mike O'Driscoll has an unprecedented knowledge of the automotive industry, both present and past – he has been Chairman of Jaguar Heritage and has often presided over historic racing weekends. He knows the industry from top to bottom: at Jaguar, he worked his way through finance, product development and marketing before moving on to the highest levels in the company. Mike has been generous in constantly sharing his knowledge and expertise with Warwick students. He has given regular presentations to MBA students on campus and has provided opportunities

for experience in working within the automotive and Formula 1 industry. Every other year, he has been the guest speaker at WBS's Business Leader/Change Maker event – a most appropriate guest speaker, for Mike O'Driscoll is himself a true change maker in an industry of enormous importance here in the West Midlands as well as nationally. It is a great pleasure to welcome him back to Warwick today.

Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, MIKE O'DRISCOLL.

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