

Dr Mike Short, CBE,

Wednesday, 27 July, 2022, awarded Honorary Doctor of Science (Hon DSc) with oration given by Margot James, Executive Chair, WMG

PROVOST

Our honorary graduate this morning is one of the leading figures in the mobile communications industry and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of International Trade. It is a great pleasure to introduce DR MIKE SHORT.

Mike studied for his BSc at Lanchester Polytechnic, and went on to work for Philips Industries and AGI. He witnessed the first mobile phone trials in the USA, and rapidly understood the potential of this new technology. Armed with experience of

managing large teams and an understanding of the application of new technologies in a business context, Mike joined BT in the early 80's. There followed the launch of the first mobile phone in 1985, and by 1987 he was purchasing mobile infrastructure for BT.

In 1989 Mike was appointed Director of Cellnet (subsequently O2UK), and later became Vice-President of Telefonica , the parent company of the O2 mobile phone network. He held this position for 17 years, leading research and development for Telefonica Europe.

Mike was heavily involved in moving the mobile network from analogue to digital and managed the launch of 2G and 3G mobile technologies. He signed the first 40 international roaming deals for Cellnet as cross- border connectivity grew, and promoted international standards in mobile technology, becoming President of the Global GSM Association. In 1998, as Chair of the Mobile Data Association, he brought UK operators together to develop workable texting services, ensuring that texts could be sent between networks, and

subsequently led teaching and awareness activity, and some of you will remember, as I do, the 'Teach your mum to text' campaign.

Under his leadership, in 2002 this group launched charity texts, enabling fundraising via mobiles. Mike was also involved in the first trials of mobile internet and launched the first mobile TV trial in Europe in 2006.

In 2017, Mike was appointed Scientific Adviser to the Department of International Trade. He is the first to hold this role, ensuring that the Department's policies are supported by the best scientific, technical and engineering advice. As well as advising on the technical aspects of trade deals, Mike also works to forge links between science and technology, business and trade. He strongly encourages links between research and business, describing a dialogue where academia makes its research output more visible directly to industry which, in turn, shares problems that can lead to joint research.

He has established links with universities across the UK, including here at Warwick. He has been a Board member at Coventry University and has held Visiting Professorships at De Montfort, Leeds, Lancaster, Salford and Surrey (where he was co-founder of the excellent 5G Innovation Centre), leading collaborations in areas such as smart cities, digital healthcare, cyber security and self-driving vehicles. He was involved in WMG's CARMA project and was a member of the Steering Board for the 3XD Simulator.

He has worked with SMEs, encouraging start-up talent through WAYRA, Telefonica's Open Innovation Hub and, as a member of the board of Surrey's local enterprise partnership, helping SMEs get to grips with 5G.

Mike is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, of which he is a former President. In 2012, he was honoured with a CBE for services to the mobile industry, where he has been at the heart

of developments for over 40 years. He has seen mobile phone ownership grow to almost 15 billion worldwide in 2021, and charity texting go from strength to strength, raising nearly £66 million in the UK in 2020-21.

He holds honorary degrees from Staffordshire and London Metropolitan Universities, and today we are delighted to honour him at Warwick.

PROVOST: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*,

MIKE SHORT.

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