

Business Survey 2023: Results Launch

Tuesday 24th October 2023



Capacity | Capability | Confidence



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Over the past few months, our market intelligence team has gathered the thoughts and opinions of the underwater supply chain to build a picture of its **capacity** and **capability** to supply the expected market opportunities and understand the business **confidence** companies have in the markets they plan to enter.

This hybrid morning event, with in-person or virtual attendance options, will present the key findings from the survey and feature insight and opinions from industry representatives, while a panel of industry leaders will provide analysis of the results and discussion on key conclusions.

Attend this event to be the first to hear the survey's key findings, receive a copy of the report and listen to the thoughts and opinions of industry representatives. It is also an opportunity for you to be part of the discussion on how we can ensure that the underwater industry fully capitalises on the myriad of future planned investment in the coming decades.

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09:30 ***Registration and Networking***

10:00 **Opening Address**

Neil Gordon, Global Underwater Hub

10:10 **Context of Business Survey**

Steve Fernie, Global Underwater Hub

10:30 **Results – Challenges and Opportunities**

Chaired by Kirstin Gove, Global Underwater Hub

Steve Fernie, Global Underwater Hub

Neil Gordon, Global Underwater Hub

10:50 **Panel Discussion with Q&A**

Chaired by Kirstin Gove, Global Underwater Hub

Matt Blair – J+S Subsea

Luke Crossland – KOSO Kent Introl

Steve Fernie – Global Underwater Hub

Captain Tom Hutchinson – Montrose Port Authority

11:30 ***Networking***

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Neil Gordon

Chief Executive, Global Underwater Hub

With over thirty-years' management experience Neil was appointed as chief executive of Subsea UK in 2011 which subsequently transitioned into the Global Underwater Hub in 2021. During this time, he effectively led the self-sustaining organisation through both its most challenging and most successful periods. During his stewardship, the organisation has taken a leading role in discussions with political and industry stakeholders about the future of the industry and the support required to maintain the UK's world-leading position.

Under his leadership, the subsea industry has transitioned to become recognised as a stand-alone industry operating in diverse sectors, including oil and gas, offshore wind, marine renewables, defence, ocean science, subsea mining and aquaculture. He has effectively negotiated and delivered partnerships and alliances with industry bodies and government agencies in the key sectors, across the UK and around the world.

His early career involved managing and developing businesses, some which he owned and also worked offshore as a commercial diver. Prior to joining Subsea UK, he spent four years managing the National Hyperbaric Centre building a strong credible reputation working and developing with the subsea sector throughout the world including India, Middle east, Africa and Brazil.

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Kirstin Gove

Head of Communications, Global Underwater Hub

Kirstin Gove joined Subsea UK (now Global Underwater Hub) as Head of Communications in October 2021 in the lead up to the organisation's transition into the GUH. A seasoned communications professional, Kirstin has nearly three decades of experience in the media, marketing and corporate communications sectors.

A former STV news anchor and broadcast journalist, Kirstin has gained knowledge working across various sectors of the energy industry including oil and gas, drilling and decommissioning, and was most recently Head of Communications at Step Change in Safety, the UK's oil and gas safety organisation.

During her career, Kirstin has also delivered media training, emergency response and reputation management services to a broad spectrum of clients and governmental organisations across the country. She remains a seasoned industry event host and panel chair.

Kirstin holds a joint MA (Hons) degree in International Relations and German from the University of Aberdeen; is a former community councillor; and is a member of Aberdeen's Friends of the Neuro Ward charity committee.

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Steve Fernie
Strategic Programme Manager
Global Underwater Hub

Steve joined GUH from an Aberdeen based automation and subsea green-tech start-up. Prior to this, he spent eight years managing business intelligence, market analysis, forecasting and strategy for a variety of global business units within Subsea 7. In addition to UK conventional subsea operations, his remit covered global ROV and bespoke tooling, subsea decommissioning, early-stage energy transition, automation and digitisation and the associated market-expansion opportunities of these. Steve has previously held intelligence and analysis roles within other key product and service providers within the underwater space.

Steve's role as Strategic Programme Manager is to ensure that the intelligence offering of the GUH is value-adding and aligned to the requirements and strategy of members, stakeholders and the GUH itself in realising the significant opportunities offered by the blue economy.

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Matt Blair
Executive Chairman
J+S Subsea

Matt Blair is Chairman of J+S Subsea which was formed in October 2020 through a management buyout of the Subsea Engineering Division of Systems Engineering and Assessment Ltd.

With J+S Subsea and SEA for over 15 years, Matt has a wealth of industry knowledge and expertise. Matt works closely with Oil company subsea engineering and production controls departments, supporting their subsea operational assets.

J+S Subsea have considerable experience in wave and tidal renewable energy projects through supply of subsea cable connection equipment to EMEC, and delivery of several projects directly to device developers.

Matt was Vice Chair of the Decom Leadership Group of DecomMission (formerly Decom North Sea) and in that role he facilitated industry and academic studies on potential for reuse and repurposing of decommissioned equipment. Through the company Legacy Locker™ initiative Matt continues to drive the reuse and circularity agendas.

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Luke Crossland
Business Area Manager
KOSO KentIntrol

With a passion for the Energy Sector, Luke entered the world of Valve Engineering in 2008 working for a number of valve companies to broaden his knowledge on all things valves and being responsible for key project tenders and project management from order entry to manufacture before settling into the engineering region of Valve Valley also known as Brighthouse where he has worked for KOSO KentIntrol for 9 years specializing in the world of Control & Choke Valves for both topside and subsea applications.

Luke's role as Area Business Manager has taken him around the world to places such as Europe, Korea, China and Brazil supporting KOSO KentIntrol's product portfolio from FEED to EPC with the world's biggest operators and EPCs but his main focus is the area of Aberdeenshire where his primary business development role is centered.

With the Worlds drive for green energy continues and the large installed base KOSO KentIntrol holds within the North Sea, this adds to the passion for Luke who regards this a one in a lifetime opportunity to make a difference with significant opportunities for British Manufacturing to once again lead the direction and innovation towards Net Zero.

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Captain Tom Hutchinson

Chief Executive

Montrose Port Authority

Tom was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in 2019 and has over 38 years' experience within the maritime sector.

His Montrose Port career began in 2000 when he came ashore to commence his role as Harbour Pilot. In 2015, he was promoted to Harbour Master, taking responsibility for all marine activities within the Port. Tom continued his position of Harbour Master alongside the role of CEO until October 2022 when duty pilot Ross Marshall was promoted to take over the responsibilities of Harbour Master. This allowed Tom to focus on the Port's future and growth in his role as CEO.

Prior to joining MPA, Tom gained years of international experience serving as Captain on various cargo and container ships. Additionally, he has varied experience within the renewables sector, having worked on several offshore wind farms throughout the country. Between 2014-2019 he acted as Operations Manager of Montrose Lifeboat station alongside his Port Authority commitments. Tom prides himself on the service that the entire MPA team provides to stakeholders of all levels and believes this is the reason for the Port's success.



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