



# Umbilicals Conference 2025

Umbilicals – The Dynamic Future Ahead

Tuesday, 11 November

Global Underwater Hub, Westhill, Aberdeen

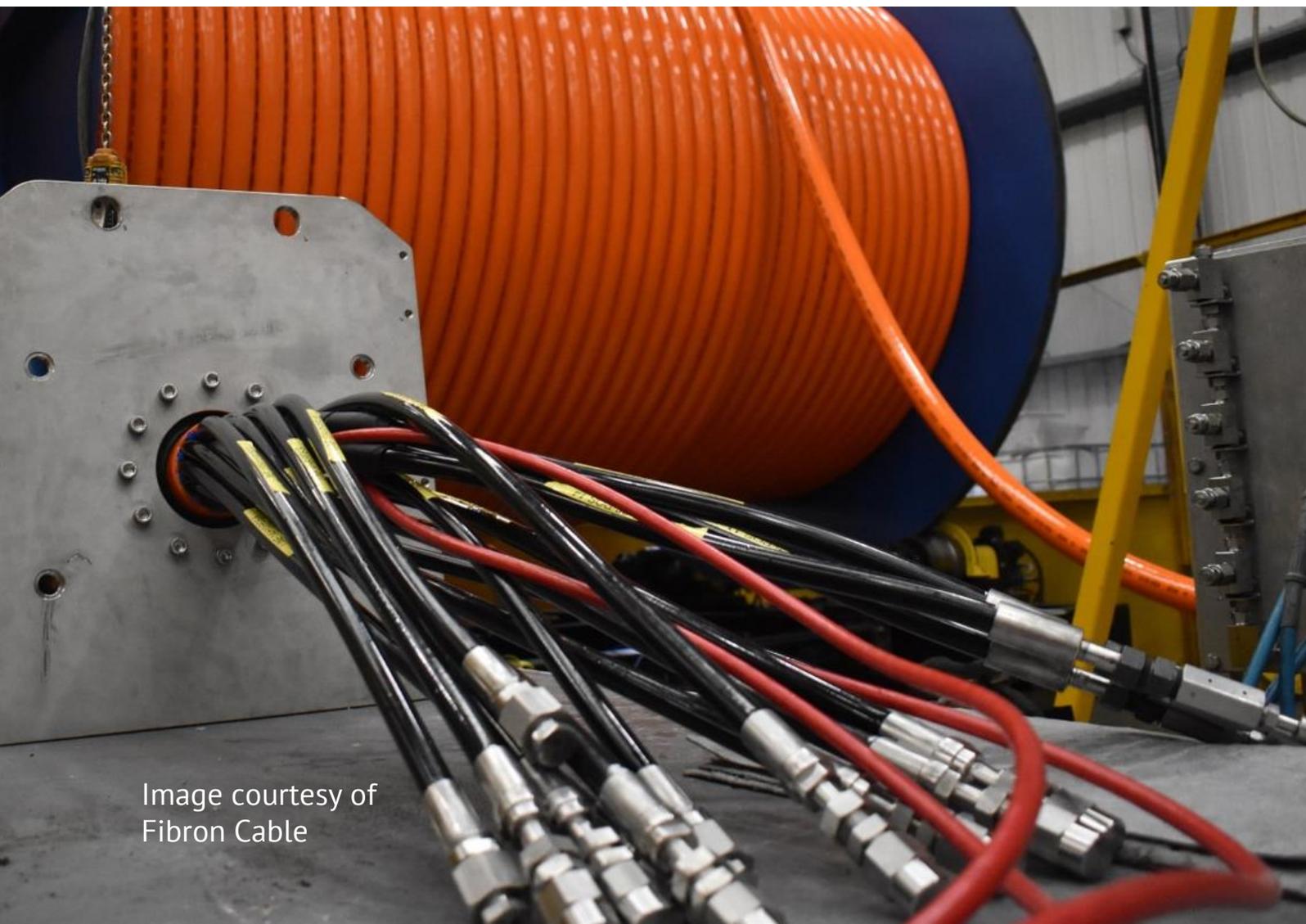


Image courtesy of  
Fibron Cable

Global Underwater Hub  
is the leading trade and  
industry development  
body for the UK's  
underwater sectors.

Owned and governed by industry, Global Underwater Hub represents, promotes and supports all sectors of the underwater industry. As the UK's underwater industry organisation, we support our member companies by enabling access to market opportunities, expertise, contacts and specialist support to accelerate market growth and build value.

[www.globalunderwaterhub.com](http://www.globalunderwaterhub.com)



The Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation brings together leading umbilical manufacturers to help shape the industry's future.

The Umbilical Manufacturer's Federation was founded in 2001 and works to promote the benefits of umbilical products for the offshore oil and gas industry, seeking to build and improve upon the established high levels of quality, reliability and safety of umbilical products.

[www.umf.as](http://www.umf.as)



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## Conference overview

The 2025 edition of the Umbilicals Conference marks the fifth time that Global Underwater Hub and the Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation have collaborated to host this event, which brings together those with an interest in the design, manufacture, installation and operation of subsea umbilicals.

With the world's energy industry once again in transition, targets are in place for global emissions to reach net-zero by 2050. To achieve this, the emerging floating offshore wind market is set to play a crucial role, while continued exploration of oil and gas, particularly in ultra-deepwater, will help maintain surety of energy supplies in the coming decades.

## Umbilicals – The Dynamic Future Ahead

Taking the theme of **Umbilicals – The Dynamic Future Ahead**, this year's conference will again see discussion on a wide range of topics that affect the umbilical industry and the offshore energies sector. As the energy sector faces a dynamic and exciting future with new frontiers, markets and challenges, the conference provides an opportunity to join the debate, share knowledge, ideas and experiences to help it drive forward successfully.

The umbilicals and cables required to deliver the demands of floating offshore wind and ultra-deepwater production, in what are challenging subsea environments, will need to withstand significant and varying marine pressures. Knowledge and experience of subsea umbilicals and cables built up over decades of oil and gas exploration in the North Sea can be applied to help address future market challenges and opportunities.

Speakers at the conference will discuss a range of topics including new and evolving markets, reflect on lessons learned, explore the role of umbilicals and the umbilical manufacturing supply chain in the energy transition, and examine the safety, performance and reliability of umbilicals. The day offers delegates the opportunity to learn, share knowledge, discuss current challenges and how they can be overcome, and network with colleagues.

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## Conference programme

09:00 – 09:30	<b>Registration, coffee and networking</b>
09:30 – 09:40	<b>Welcome from Phil Ashley, Chair, Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation</b>
09:40 – 09:50	<b>Welcome from Neil Gordon, Chief Executive, Global Underwater Hub</b>
09:50 – 10:05	<b>Safety moment – John Stansfield, bp</b>
10:05 – 10:25	<b>Robert Weeks, JDR Cable Systems</b>
10:25 – 10:45	<b>Sarah Miller, Opergy</b>
10:45 – 11:05	<b>Networking break</b> - including pause for national two-minute silence
11:05 – 11:25	<b>Jack Larsen, OneSubsea</b>
11:25 – 11:45	<b>Martin Douglas, Oceaneering</b>
11:45 – 12:00	<b>Thomas Ramser, Tubacex Group</b>
12:00 – 12:15	<b>Duncan Lloyd, SEA Enterprises</b>
12:15 – 12:35	<b>Panel session: The Future of Manufacturing</b>
12:35 – 13:35	<b>Lunch</b>
13:35 – 13:40	<b>Introduction to the afternoon sessions</b>
13:40 – 14:00	<b>Helge Kjostvedt, Siemens Energy</b>
14:00 – 14:20	<b>Wilmar van Hengel, Subsea7</b>
14:20 – 14:40	<b>John Stansfield, bp</b>
14:40 – 15:00	<b>Fisker Xu, Viper Innovations</b>
15:00 – 15:20	<b>Sijmon van der Wal, Composite Analytica</b>
15:20 – 15:40	<b>Panel session</b>
15:40 – 15:50	<b>Closing remarks: Phil Ashley, Chair, Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation</b> <b>Neil Gordon, Chief Executive, Global Underwater Hub</b>
15:50	<b>Event close</b>

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## Confirmed speakers

Delegates to the **Umbilicals Conference** on Tuesday, 11 November will hear insight from representatives of the following organisations:



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## Speaker biographies



### Phil Ashley

Chair

Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation

Phil Ashley is the Chief Executive Officer of Fibron, a major designer, manufacturer and global provider of cables and umbilicals. With a career spanning over 25 years in the subsea industry, he has worked in and led manufacturing organisations in subsea control, subsea instrumentation, subsea electrical connectors, and umbilicals and cables.

Prior to joining independently owned Fibron in 2020, Phil worked of range of companies including ABB, Expro, Siemens, GE and Baker Hughes, holding a range of positions.

A graduate of Middlesex University and Henley Business School, Phil has been the chair of the Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation since 2022.

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## Speaker biographies



### Neil Gordon

Chief Executive

Global Underwater Hub

Neil is the Chief Executive of Global Underwater Hub, a pivotal organisation spearheading the profound transformation within the UK energy sector. With over three decades of managerial expertise in directorial and business development capacities within the subsea domain, Neil is a seasoned and esteemed leader in the industry.

Having assumed the role of CEO at Subsea UK in 2011, he has been instrumental in shaping dialogues with industry stakeholders, governmental officials, and departments concerning the future trajectory of the subsea sector. His leadership has been pivotal in steering the evolution of the UK subsea industry into a standalone sector, diversifying across various sectors, including oil and gas, offshore wind, marine renewables, defence, ocean science, subsea mining, and aquaculture.

Neil's early career was marked by diverse experiences in managing and expanding operations across India, the Middle East, and Brazil. As a former commercial diver, he ascended to the position of General Manager at the National Hyperbaric Centre, where he cultivated business streams encompassing diving research and trials, hyperbaric testing, and saturation diving operations.

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## Speaker biographies



### John Stansfield

Discipline Lead (umbilical, flexibles & power cable)

bp

John is responsible for the engineering and procurement of all bp subsea umbilical, power cable and flexible pipe. He leads a global team of engineers to deliver products to all of the company's subsea projects globally.

John has over 28 years of experience of design, manufacturing, procurement and offshore construction of subsea flexible products.

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## Speaker biographies



### Robert Weeks

Chief Engineer, Energy  
JDR Cable Systems

Robert Weeks is a subsea umbilicals and cables expert with over 14 years of experience in umbilical systems. As Chief Engineer at JDR Cables, Robert is primarily focussed on delivering new technologies to the market to expand JDR's product range and technical offering.

Robert has previously held roles at JDR as Principal Engineer for Umbilicals and Technical Sales Manager for Renewable Energy Power Cables which provide him with both a broad range of experience in this sector and a deep understanding of umbilical and cable products. Robert holds a Master's degree in Engineering from the University of Cambridge, UK and is a Chartered Engineer registered with the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

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## Speaker biographies



### Sarah Miller

Associate Director - Offshore Renewables  
Opergy

Since beginning her journey into offshore wind back in 2009, Sarah has witnessed the industry change from conceptual to commercial. She has seen the LCOE drop from £150/ MWh down to £39.65 in AR3. Through this journey, there is no doubt that the supply chain has grown significantly – from the incredible development of larger turbines at the front end, through to smarter and more efficient monitoring systems at the operational end - and it is her passion to help companies achieve success within our industry in this exciting period of growth.

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## Speaker biographies



### Jack Larsen

Lead Engineer Umbilicals  
OneSubsea

Jack Larsen is Lead Engineer Umbilicals with OneSubsea. Based in Oslo, he has worked in the oil and gas industry for around 10 years, gaining experience in different departments and roles. For the last six years Jack has been in the umbilicals division of OneSubsea, most recently as Lead Engineer for several projects operating on the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

Recent projects have involved the delivery of dynamic and static umbilicals, end terminations and a large variety of umbilical ancillaries. He has also had involvement in and been based at OneSubsea's Moss umbilical production site during testing, production and load outs, and then offshore during installation.

A graduate of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Jack holds a Master's degree in Energy and Environmental Engineering.

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## Speaker biographies



### Martin Douglas

Test Engineer

Oceaneering

Martin Douglas is a Test Engineer for Oceaneering Manufactured Products' Rosyth division. In this role, he is responsible for the design, execution, analysis and reporting of component and product validation tests performed at the Testing, Qualification and Reliability (TQR) Laboratory.

Martin has been with Oceaneering for two years and previously worked in developing and testing a survey class AUV from concept to qualification offshore. He obtained a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Portsmouth.

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## Speaker biographies



### Thomas Ramser

Head of Business Field Umbilical Tubes  
Tubacex Group

Thomas Ramser is Head of Business Field Umbilical Tubes and SME & Global Senior Engineer Umbilical Tubes within Tubacex Group / Schoeller Bleckmann Edelstahlrohr and has more than 30 years' experience in stainless seamless tube manufacturing, testing and welding.

Next to a technical college and university degree he holds a certificate as International Welding Engineer, Level 3 education in several NDT methods and is certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt.

Thomas is member of the American Welding Society and ISO committee member in the TC 067, as well as API working group member in SC17 Subcommittee for Subsea Production Equipment.

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## Speaker biographies



### Duncan Lloyd

Business Development Manager  
SEA Enterprises

Duncan Lloyd is the Business Development Manager at SEA Enterprises a.s., an innovative and talented supplier of reels and drums, machines and automation, rods and wires, and inspections and testing. His role is to expand the business portfolio and client base of SEA, leveraging his expertise in manufacturing, quality management, lean production methods and sustainability.

Duncan's background is in the energy sector, having worked in corporate management with Premier Oil for four years based in London, and worldwide operations in Schlumberger for 23 years. He also managed the technical inspections for Energo-Pro, one of Europe's major suppliers of hydro-electric power turbines.

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## Speaker biographies



### Helge Kjostvedt

Head of Maritime, Offshore & Subsea  
Global Life Cycle Services  
Siemens Energy

Helge Kjostvedt is the Head of Maritime, Offshore & Subsea Global Lifecycle Services with Siemens Energy based in Norway.

With nearly four decades of experience in the oil and gas sector, Helge has worked in a variety of roles, including on offshore production installations and drilling rigs in the North Sea. Over the past 30 years he has held a range of management roles covering service, engineering, sales, project management, business development and site management. From 1999, Helge spent five years based in Houston, supporting Siemens Energy's activities in North and South America.

Helge was also involved in starting up Siemens Energy's subsea business in 2007 and subsequently supported the integration of acquired subsea businesses into the company's portfolio. In his current role he has global responsibility for Siemens Energy's subsea regions, which includes Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa.

A certified electrician, Helge holds qualifications from NKI in Oslo and the University of Stavanger.

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## Speaker biographies



### Wilmar van Hengel

Global Technical Specialist for Flexibles,  
Umbilicals, and Cables

Subsea7

Wilmar van Hengel holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Delft University of Technology and has 20 years of work experience in flexibles and umbilicals installation engineering and offshore execution with Subsea7.

He developed the BRQC installation method as part of the Johan Sverdrup Phase 2 project for Equinor. Most recently Wilmar has been the lead engineer for the flexibles and umbilicals installation scope of work on the Skarv Satellites project for Aker BP.

From the start of October 2025, he have joined the Subsea7 Group Engineering team in the role of Global Technical Specialist and chair of the Community of Experts for flexibles, umbilicals, and cables.

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## Speaker biographies



### Fisker Xu

Head of Research and Development  
Viper Innovations

Fisker Xu is Head of R&D at Viper Innovations Ltd, where he leads all IP research and development initiatives, and manages a multidisciplinary team delivering advanced engineering projects.

With over a decade of experience in the electronics and electrical engineering industry, Fisker is recognised as an expert in electronics condition monitoring and algorithm development, with a strong portfolio of patents and academic publications. His professional focus lies in solving complex industrial challenges and translating innovative concepts into commercially viable products.

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## Speaker biographies



### Sijmon van der Wal

Managing Director  
Composite Analytica

Sijmon van der Wal is Managing Director of Composite Analytica, a lean engineering firm specialised in lifetime prediction of polymers and composites. He laid the foundations and principles of the CheFEM 3 simulation platform, today applied by leading organisations including Shell, Hexcel, Syensqo, Boeing, and NASA.

With over 20 years of experience in physics and engineering, Sijmon has advanced methods for modelling hydrogen transport, CO<sub>2</sub> exposure, and subsea materials performance, supporting industry in developing safer, more durable umbilicals and flexible pipe systems.

## Future events from Global Underwater Hub

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Global Underwater Hub organises a series of events throughout the year, bringing together businesses to discuss key industry topics. Full event information, including booking details and calls for abstracts can be found on our website at [www.globalunderwaterhub.com](http://www.globalunderwaterhub.com), where you can also sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

### Underwater Robotics Conference 2025

Thursday, 27 November | [Westhill, Aberdeen](#)

This annual conference has become a central strand of Global Underwater Hub's programme. The one-day event will focus on three key themes: ROV and robotics hardware, peripherals and accessories, and analysis and autonomy.



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### Subsea Expo

Wednesday, 04 – Thursday, 05 February 2026 | [P&J Live, Aberdeen](#)

Organised by Global Underwater Hub, Subsea Expo is a leading exhibition and conference for companies working in the subsea sector and wider underwater industry, which attracts thousands of visitors. Find out more about exhibiting or attending.



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### Moorings and Anchors Conference & Workshop 2026

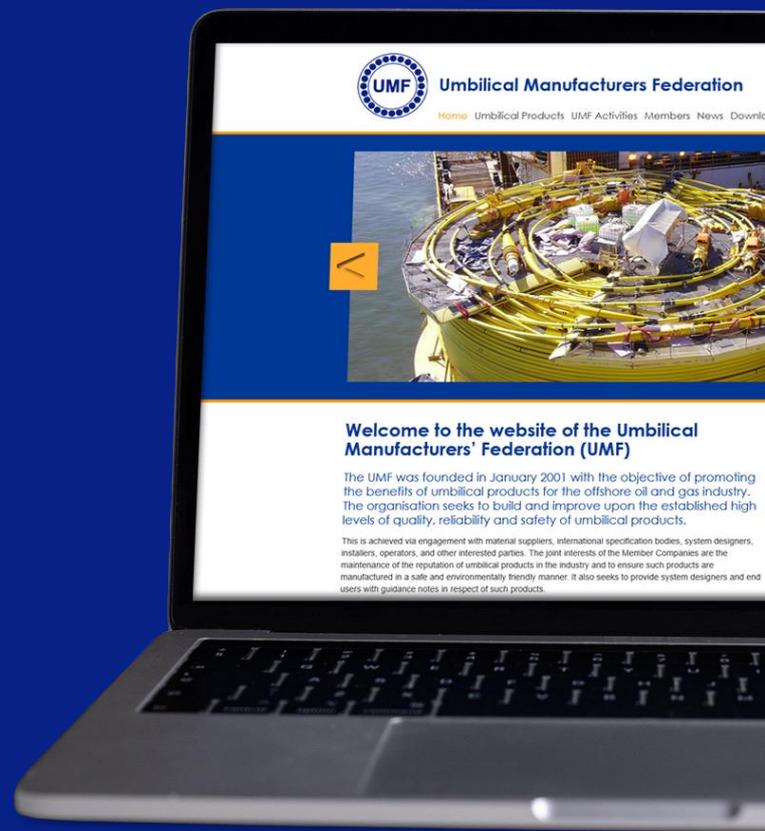
Thursday, 19 March | [Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh](#)

The third edition of this popular annual conference will provide an engaging platform for delegates to explore the key elements of the life cycle of mooring systems which are critical for offshore projects in multiple sectors.



# Learn more about the Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation

To discover more about the **Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation** and its members, visit its website, where you will also find out more about becoming a member, be able to access guidance notes and learn about the roles of its different committees.



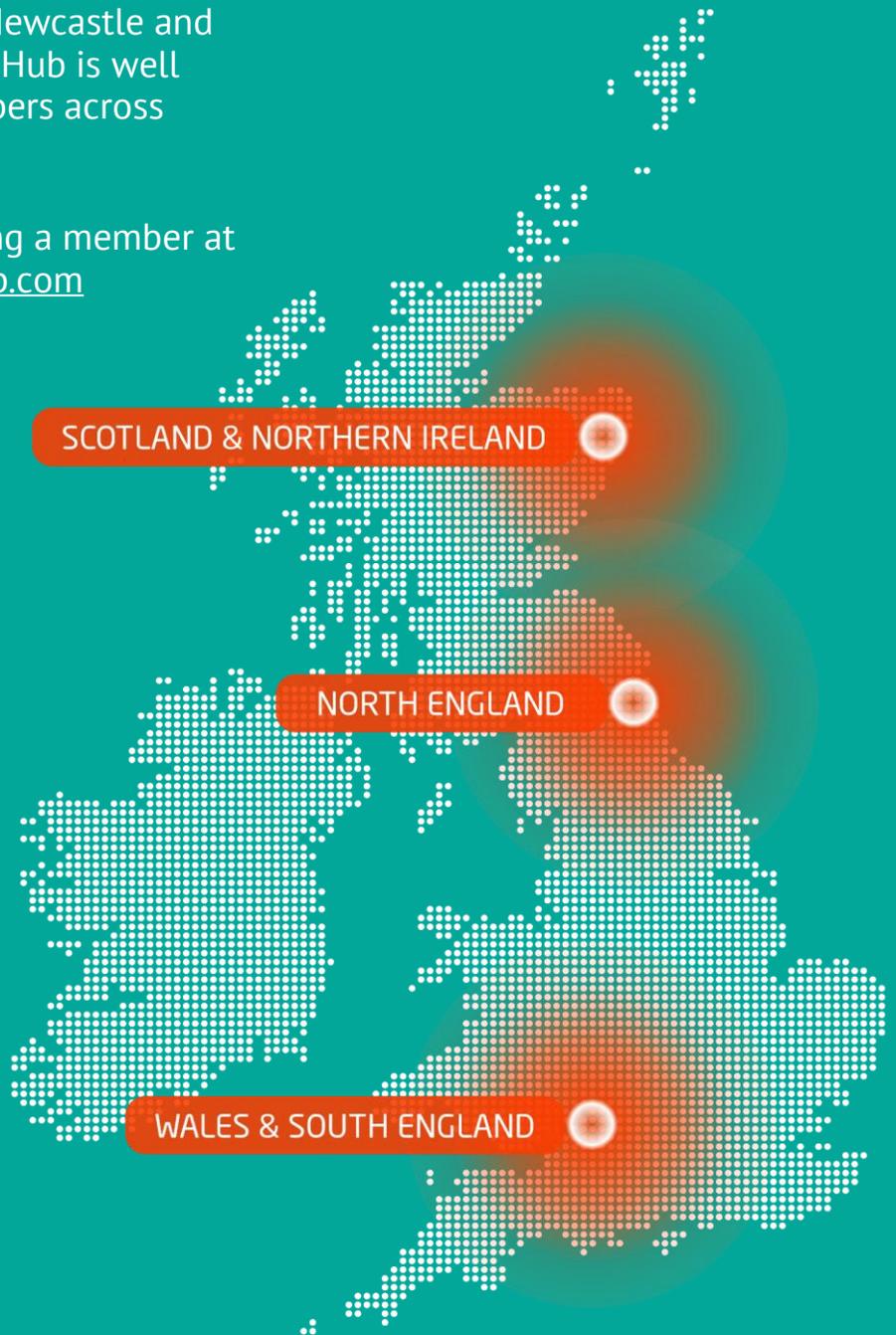
[www.umf.as](http://www.umf.as)



Led and governed by industry, Global Underwater Hub is helping to transform the UK's underwater industry into one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the country, accelerating the drive to net-zero and creating high value jobs and exports.

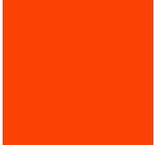
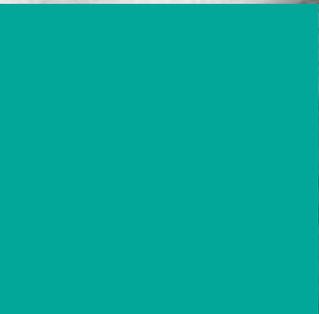
With offices in Aberdeen, Newcastle and Bristol, Global Underwater Hub is well placed to support its members across the United Kingdom.

Learn more about becoming a member at [www.globalunderwaterhub.com](http://www.globalunderwaterhub.com)



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