

# Underwater Robotics Conference 2023

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

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**GUH**  
**PROGRAMME**



Image courtesy of  
Saab Seaeye and Nekton

# Underwater Robotics Conference 2023

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Underwater robotic technology has evolved, and continues to evolve at pace, enabling electric and battery power, supporting smaller units, improving efficiency, enhancing range, increasing data capture and widening application.

Where can artificial intelligence, enriched data capture and seabed mapping, coupled with future technologies take tomorrow's subsea robots? To sustainably realise the full potential of our oceans and seas we need to enhance our understanding of them, and underwater robotics can help scientists and industry to deliver this.

Global Underwater Hub's one-day conference brings together those with a vested interest in developing and employing underwater robotics technology. From **academia and equipment manufacturers, to subsea imaging and measurement experts, and technicians, operators and end users across a range of underwater sectors**, the Underwater Robotics Conference is a platform for debate and discussion on the opportunities and challenges ahead in this exciting field.

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- 08:30**     **Arrive for Registration**
  - 09:00**     **Welcome to GUH**  
*Neil Gordon, Global Underwater Hub*
  - 09:10**     **Technology Market Overview**  
*Steve Fernie, Global Underwater Hub*
  - 09:20**     **Opening Panel Session**
  - 10:00**     **Coffee and Networking**
  - 10:30**     **Session 1: Vehicle Developments**  
*Q&A and Panel Session*
  - 12:00**     **Lunch**
  - 13:00**     **Session 2: Enabling Technologies**  
*Q&A and Panel Session*
  - 14:30**     **Coffee and Networking**
  - 15:00**     **Session 3: Applications**  
*Q&A and Panel Session*
  - 16:30**     **Closing Comments**  
**Coffee and Networking**

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## Welcome to GUH



**Neil Gordon**  
*Chief Executive*  
*Global Underwater Hub*

## Technology Market Overview



**Steve Fernie**  
*Strategic Programme Manager*  
*Global Underwater Hub*

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## Opening Panel Session

*Chaired by Neil Gordon*

**Greg Jones**  
*Project Manager*  
*TotalEnergies*



**David Hall**  
*OneROV Manager*  
*TechnipFMC*



**Alex Boheimer**  
*Discipline Lead for Subsea Risers*  
*BP*



**Steve Fernie**  
*Strategic Programme Manager*  
*Global Underwater Hub*

**10:00 Coffee and Networking**

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## Session 1: Vehicle Developments



**Cristian Nevoso**  
*Sonsub - Project Manager*  
*Saipem Ltd*



**Jason Gillham**  
*Chief Technology Officer*  
*Impossible Metals*



**Stephen Thomson**  
*Business Development Manager*  
*Fugro*

**Followed by a panel and Q&A**

**12:00 Lunch and Networking**

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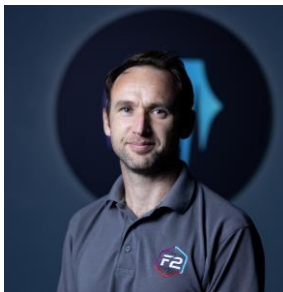
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## Session 2: Enabling Technologies



**Paul Slorach**  
*Chief Technology Officer*  
*Verlume*



**Duncan Rigg**  
*Sales Engineer*  
*Sonardyne*



**Maverick Piccininni**  
*Regional Sales Manager – UK & IE*  
*Exail Ltd*

Followed by a panel and Q&A

**14:30      Coffee and Networking**

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### Session 3: Applications



**Scott Griffiths**  
*Geoscience Manager*  
*Kraken Robotics*



**Ka Henney-Cant**  
*Products and Services Manager*  
*Oceaneering*



**Lee Wasling**  
*Business and Project Development Manager*  
*EODEX*

**Followed by a panel and Q&A**

**16:30      Coffee and Networking**



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## Welcome to GUH



**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.



## *Technology Market Overview*



### **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.



## Opening Panel Session

**Greg Jones**  
*Project Manager*  
*TotalEnergies*

Greg has over 30 years' experience in Subsea and Pipeline activities covering all aspects from concept to decom. During this time Greg has on several occasions introduced new technologies and technologies from other industries in order to address problems encountered during construction and / or operations. In recent years Greg has been involved in projects developing USV and AUV technologies for pipeline and cable inspection, including the recent first commercial use of an AUV for pipeline inspection.

When not involved with work, Greg spends time with his time with his family or, walking, travelling and photography.



### Opening Panel Session



**David Hall**  
*OneROV Manager*  
*TechnipFMC*

David Hall is the manager of TechnipFMC's OneROV department, responsible for all vessel based ROV systems and operations within the company on a global basis. Asset portfolio includes Heavy Work Class ROVs, Light Work ROVs and Observation class ROVs supporting a wide range of operations from dive support to heavy construction and pipelay.

David has been with TechnipFMC for more than 15 years, with a primary focus on ROVs and ROV operations, and has held positions across engineering, operations, and management prior to his current role.



## Opening Panel Session



### Alex Boheimer

#### *Discipline Lead for Subsea Risers BP*

Alex is the Discipline Lead for Subsea Risers within bp, providing riser engineering services to the Company's operating assets globally. In addition to this he is a member of the bp subsea Futures squad, advocating & promoting the adoption of developing technologies key to the delivery of bp's strategic targets including the reduction of CO2 emissions, further enhancing safety and driving down costs.

The application of remote ops, guided autonomy, enhanced drone capability to support operating assets is seen as critical to this journey and in recent years Alex (with his Futures squad colleagues) has been leading a number of trials to enable their acceptance for operational adoption.



## *Latest achievements in Underwater Robotics: Saipem's Hydrone*



**Cristian Nevoso**  
*Sonsub - Project Manager*  
*Saipem Ltd*

Cristian Nevoso, Master degree in Electronics Engineering, has more than 15 years of experience in Oil&Gas industry working for SONSUB, Saipem's centre of excellence for subsea technology innovation for Energies industry, including among others the development of underwater intervention drones (UID), subsea asset repairing system, subsea special tools. He has recently been appointed as Sonsub Solutions Manager ROV&Subsea drones.

Since 2018 Cristian has been leading a specialized team in Subsea Robotics for the development of cutting-edge subsea drones, the FlatFish AUV, as part of Saipem Hydrone family vehicles. The autonomous inspection drone FlatFish is able to perform advanced inspection tasks in deepwater subsea fields based on its AI capabilities, including horizontal and vertical structures inspections.



### *A new class of AUV for Underwater Sampling*



#### **Jason Gillham**

*Sonsub Commercial Manager North Sea Impossible Metals*

Jason is a two-time marine entrepreneur and roboticist. Jason founded his first company 2G Robotics (now Voyis) after completing his Masters in Robotics Engineering from the University of Waterloo in Canada.

After leading his past company through an acquisition by Sonardyne, Jason co-founded Impossible Metals, leading the robotics team in the development of a new form of autonomous underwater vehicle to support the world's energy transition.

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## *The future of Subsea Inspection and Maintenance Operations*



**Stephen Thomson**  
*Business Development Manager*  
*Fugro*





### *In-field resident AUV charging stations for offshore wind farm surveys*



**Paul Slorach**  
*Chief Technology Officer*  
**Verlume**

Paul Slorach is one of Verlume's founding team members and has been integral to the company's growth. Passionate about subsea technology and the energy transition, Paul leads Verlume's engineering and technology development, ensuring products and capabilities are aligned with industry needs. Paul's background is as a mechanical engineer, with 20 years' experience in subsea engineering in the oil & gas and offshore renewables sectors, mainly in design and delivery of subsea production systems, intervention equipment, power generation and energy storage technologies.

As vice chair of the Aberdeen branch of the Society of Underwater Technology, Paul is also a regular participant in discussions around the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy supply chain



## *Multi-Robotic Ocean Exploration*



**Duncan Rigg**  
*Sales Engineer*  
*Sonardyne*

Duncan graduated the University of Plymouth with a degree in Ocean Science. He started his career as an offshore engineer working on pipeline and structure inspections. In 2011 he joined Sonardyne as a field engineer, installing and calibrating hydroacoustic positioning systems.

Duncan spent 5 years as project manager at Sonardyne overseeing vessel installations and the development various dynamic positioning sensors. Duncan now sits within the sales team at Sonardyne specialising in vessel systems.



### *From Components to Platforms: Enabling autonomous systems with Exail's technology ecosystem*



#### **Maverick Piccininni**

*Regional Sales Manager – UK & IE  
Exail Ltd*

Maverick Piccininni is the Regional Sales Manager for Exail. With a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada, his background in product marketing and go-to-market strategy helped to introduce new subsea imaging technology to the offshore energy & defence markets when he joined the marine industry with 2G Robotics (now Voyis) as their Sales & Marketing Manager.

Since 2020, he has been a part of Exail's dynamic team in Aberdeen, leading a period of rapid growth of their cutting-edge marine robotics, autonomy, positioning, and navigation technologies in the United Kingdom and Ireland.



## *Capturing the Effects of Remedial Trenching through Acoustic Imaging*



**Scott Griffiths**  
*Geoscience Manager*  
*Kraken Robotics*

Scott has worked in the oil and gas and offshore wind farm geophysical survey sector for the last 12 years. His expertise has been focused on geophysical data acquisition, interpretation and reporting and my initial 10 years were spent working at Fugro as a geophysicist, specialising in geophysical site surveys, pipeline and cable route surveys and offshore wind farm surveys.

In the last two years, he has worked at Kraken Robotics (formerly PanGeo Subsea) as the Geoscience Manager. Kraken specialise in 3D geophysical survey technology, primarily the Sub-Bottom Imager (SBI), Acoustic Corer (AC) and Synthetic Aperture Sonar systems (SAS).



### *Leveraging Advanced Subsea Robotics to Deliver Optimized IMR Scopes*



**Ka Henney-Cant**  
*Products and Services Manager*  
*Oceaneering*

Ka Henney-Cant serves as the Products and Services Manager for Oceaneering's Offshore Projects Group. She has 15 years' experience in the offshore energy industry and extensive experience in senior management roles. She joined Oceaneering in November 2022 after five years with having previously executed the role of Vice President of Americas for a global subsea technology organisation. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and a Master of Science in Marine Fisheries and Environmental Science from the University of Aberdeen.

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## Lee Wasling

*Business and Project Development Manager  
EODEX*

After 15 years Royal Navy service encompassing operations and risk management, Lees' extensive experience in the commercial maritime sector spans over a decade. With professional roles including Offshore Project Manager, Client Representative and Head of Marine Operations, Lee has developed a successful track record in commercial bid wins and delivery of high value projects for major international clients.

Lee sits on the EODEX management board, managing the company's growth and its entry into new markets and is a member of the Institute of Explosives Engineers (IExpE UK).





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