

# CABLES 2024

## 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER BRISTOL

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**GUH**  
**PROGRAMME**



# CABLES 2024

18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

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Global Underwater Hub's annual Cables conference, supported by **RenewableUK**, returns for its 2024 edition in September and will once again drive discussion on a core aspect of offshore renewable energy development and in building energy security worldwide.

Cables 2024 takes place in Bristol, bringing together key stakeholders from across the cable and energy industries. Attend this leading UK conference and learn about the latest developments in cables and interconnectors manufacturing and protection, understand challenges around installation, inspection and maintenance, and discover more about planned projects and the size of the market opportunity.

## Sponsored by



# CABLES 2024

## 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

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**08:30**      **Registration**

**09:00**      **Welcome**  
Neil Gordon, CEO, GUH

**09:10**      **Session 1**  
*Market overview, scene setting and panel discussion*

**10:30**      **Break**

**11:00**      **Session 2**  
*The challenges of cable systems begin before manufacture, this session will examine the key challenges in the early stages of cable system development.*

**12:30**      **Lunch**

**13:30**      **Session 3**  
*Manufacture & testing of Dynamic Cables - How will we design, manufacture and test for GW scale floating wind farms?*

**15:00**      **Break**

**15:30**      **Session 4**  
*Handling & installation - What happens when handling or installation goes wrong? Can cable designs be improved to aid installation, how do as planned and as is installations impact cable reliability?*

**17:00**      **Close**

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09:10

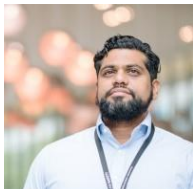
### Session 1

*Subsea cables form the critical lifeline and money line connecting offshore wind production from the source of demand onshore. This session will set the scene with contributions from the developers' perspective as they rely on the supply chain to deliver these projects. In addition, a scene setting market overview, component requirements and progress to date will provide context for the day.*



### Market Overview

*Steve Fernie, Strategic Programme Manager  
Global Underwater Hub*



*Ajai Ahluwalia, Head of Supply Chain  
RenewableUK*



### Cables Forum

*Alex MacPhie, Cables Specialist  
Global Underwater Hub*



*Leonore Frame, Development Engagement /  
Category Manager Cables – Specialist  
Offshore Wind Delivery Team  
Scottish Enterprise*

### Panel Discussion

10:30

### Break

11:00

### Session 2

*Following the life cycle of the cable, this session focuses on the initial design, analysis and simulation testing against standards. This panel session will explore different viewpoints in the varying drivers of design including O&M and decommissioning which is increasingly pre-designed. Larger wind farms further from shore necessitate more complex cables and higher volumes, also required to be managed by the supply chain.*



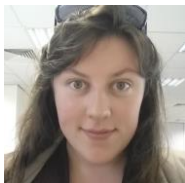
#### Chair

*Michael Dodd  
DNV*



#### Panellists

*John Price  
Hengtong Cables*



*Siobhan Doole  
JDR Cable Systems*



*Alex Neumann  
Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult*



*Robert Knowles  
Vesipro*

13:30

### Session 3

*Session 3 will focus on the manufacture and testing of dynamic cables prior to the complex hand-off to installation contractors. Significant knowledge exists within the umbilical market which can be applicable in parts, but consideration must also be given to more complex dynamic cables required for floating offshore wind farms where the UK is again on course to build the world's first commercial scale farm and set international best practise.*



#### Chair

*Alex MacPhie  
Global Underwater Hub*

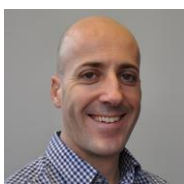


#### Panellists

*Will Brindley  
Apollo*



*Martin Jolliffe  
Osbit*



*Alan Dobson  
TechnipFMC*

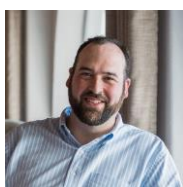
15:00

### Break

15:30

### Session 4

*Appropriate handling, preparation and installation of subsea cables onsite, incorporating protection systems, buoyancy and laydown methodology is essential for farm commissioning and efficient O&M throughout its lifetime. The flow of information is critical at this stage and this panel will explore whether this transfer of information, planning, execution and inspection is fit for, and remains fit for, purpose. If not, the risk is substantial which introduces the prime consideration of insurance to be explored the following day.*



#### Chair

Alex Gauntt  
Cierco Energy



#### Panellists

John Davies  
Helix Robotics Solutions



Norman Skillen  
Jan De Nul Group



Elliott Shilling  
Beam



Gary Howland  
Tekmar Group

17:00

Close

17:30

Networking Drinks Reception



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**Neil Gordon**  
CEO  
*Global Underwater Hub*

### **About Neil Gordon**

*Neil Gordon is chief executive of Global Underwater Hub– an organisation playing a key role in the most far-reaching transformation of the UK energy industry. A seasoned and well-respected industry leader, Neil has more than thirty years' management experience in director and business development roles including more two decades working in the subsea industry.*

*Since his appointment as CEO of Subsea UK in 2011, Neil has played a leading role in discussions with industry stakeholders, Government ministers and departments about the future of the subsea industry and the support required to maintain its world-leading reputation. He's also played a significant role in leading the transition of the UK subsea industry to become recognised as a stand-alone industry operating in diverse range of sectors including oil and gas, offshore wind, marine renewables, defence, ocean science, subsea mining and aquaculture. In 2021, Neil successfully launched Global Underwater Hub, the leading trade and industry development body for the UK's underwater sectors.*

*Having held several board positions, Neil is currently a Director of OPITO and the Offshore Training Foundation, and a member of the NSTA Supply Chain and Exports Task Group.*

### **About Global Underwater Hub**

*Global Underwater Hub (GUH) is a strategically-focused organisation, built upon its predecessor Subsea UK's near two-decade legacy, retaining its experience, knowledge, networks and membership, expanding its reach, scope and sphere of influence across the UK and across all sectors operating in the underwater industry.*

*GUH champions the UK's underwater sectors, at home and abroad, ensuring we lead the way globally in terms of market size, experience and technology development.*





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

#### **About Steve Fernie**

*Steve Fernie is Strategic Programme Manager at Global Underwater Hub, a role that sees him identify core areas of focus where products, services and experience can be transferred across numerous underwater markets. In addition, he ensures that the intelligence offering of GUH is value-adding and aligned to the requirements and strategy of members, stakeholders and the organisation itself in realising the opportunities offered by the blue economy.*

*Steve has over 12 years' experience in market analysis and strategy support across the subsea sector, including eight years managing business intelligence, market analysis, forecasting and strategy for a range of global business units within Subsea7. 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.*

#### **About Global Underwater Hub**

*Global Underwater Hub (GUH) is a strategically-focused organisation, built upon its predecessor Subsea UK's near two-decade legacy, retaining its experience, knowledge, networks and membership, expanding its reach, scope and sphere of influence across the UK and across all sectors operating in the underwater industry.*

*GUH champions the UK's underwater sectors, at home and abroad, ensuring we lead the way globally in terms of market size, experience and technology development.*



**Ajai Ahluwalia**  
*Head of Supply Chain*  
**RenewableUK**

### **About Ajai Ahluwalia**

*With over 12 years in the Offshore Wind industry Ajai has a broad technical and commercial experience, having worked across the Development, Engineering, Construction and Operations phases on various projects for several organisations.*

*At RenewableUK, as the Head of Supply Chain, Ajai is now focussing on making sure industry can deliver upon the UK's ambitious offshore wind deployment targets, and indeed seeing how opportunities in UK supply chain can be realised.*

### **About RenewableUK**

*We bring them together to deliver that future faster; a future which is better for industry, bill payers, and the environment. We support over 450 member companies to ensure increasing amounts of renewable electricity are deployed across the UK and access markets to export all over the world. Our members are business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from right across industry.*

*Our priority is to make sure that it is RenewableUK members at the heart of delivering this UK opportunity. To do this provide them with the highest possible quality services and information, supporting them in any way we can to do more, and better business.*



### Michael Dodd

*Director, Market Area Manager,  
Power Grids, UK & Ireland  
DNV*

#### **About Michael Dodd**

*Michael Dodd is DNV's Business Director for Power Grids in the UK & Irish markets. He is a regulatory and strategy professional with more than 20 years' experience in different roles across multiple regulated utility industries and has a primary focus on the commercial and strategic impacts of regulation, policy and market structures within global energy markets and networks. He is responsible for the strategic direction and growth of DNV's activities across the power grids and energy transition sectors within the UK & Ireland region.*

*Michael brings extensive experience in advising on the commercial impacts of regulatory and market changes from the operational to strategic levels. He has a broad knowledge of industry governance structures, representing industry sectors on strategic industry groups, code governance panels and has advised Governments and developers around the world on major reform programmes. Michael brings a networks and generation markets focus, with deep operational understanding of the interactions between energy networks, traded markets and Government support mechanisms for low carbon and conventional generation and various forms of energy storage.*

#### **About DNV**

*DNV is an independent assurance and risk management provider, operating in more than 100 countries, with the purpose of safeguarding life, property, and the environment. As a trusted voice for many of the world's most successful organizations, we help seize opportunities and tackle the risks arising from global transformations. We use our broad experience and deep expertise to advance safety and sustainable performance, set industry standards, and inspire and invent solutions.*

*DNV provides assurance to the entire energy value chain through its advisory, monitoring, verification, and certification services. As the world's leading resource of independent energy experts and technical advisors, the assurance provider helps industries and governments to navigate the many complex, interrelated transitions taking place globally and regionally, in the energy industry. DNV is committed to realizing the goals of the Paris Agreement, and supports customers to transition faster to a deeply decarbonized energy system.*



### **John Price** *Senior Business Development Manager* **Hengtong International Business Group**

#### **About John Price**

*John is currently the Senior BD Manager for Hengtong's HV Submarine Cable System Division responsible for the renewable energy market within UK and Ireland.*

*John possesses 25 years of progressive experience within marine, offshore wind and oil & gas market sectors.*

*This experience stemmed from his role at JDR, initially as Sales Manager and later becoming EMEA Sales Director for Oil & Gas, then Global Sales Director for renewable products and services.*

*During this time John developed a wealth of knowledge regarding Oil & Gas and Renewable energy, particularly global offshore wind, playing a key role in establishing the company within the market sector*

*Following his time at JDR, John held positions at James Fisher Marine & EDS HV, who offer offshore electrical services, where he was responsible for establishing their Business Development department including their tendering process and the implementation of the CRM system, as well as growing the company's sales revenues and key account penetration*

*After short stints at both Nylacast Grp and back at JDR, John took up his role at Hengtong, with a remit to help increase their presence outside of China.*

#### **About Hengtong Group**

*The Hengtong Group was founded in 1991 by Mr Genliang Cui. Hengtong Optic-Electric Co., Ltd is a subsidiary of the main Group and is the Business Unit responsible for the submarine power cable product line.*

*Hengtong Optic-Electric Co., Ltd is listed on the Chinese Stock Exchange and Headquartered in Suzhou, near Shanghai. Within this sector of the Group is Hengtong Submarine Power Cable Co., Ltd which is their manufacturing facility based in Changshu also near to Shanghai.*

*Hengtong Optic-Electric Co., Ltd also has a European subsidiary based in Dusseldorf called Hengtong Energylink GmbH*

*Hengtong Submarine Power Cable Co., Ltd's, factory in Changshu is now a dedicated factory for international business and has the capability of producing cable exceeding 500kV HV with the capacity of producing over 2,000km per year of cable with a current track record of producing and delivering over 5,600km of submarine power cable to the global energy market.*



**Siobhan Doole**  
*Lead Analysis Engineer*  
**JDR Cable Systems Ltd**

### **About Siobhan Doole**

*With 10 years' experience in offshore energy across design, manufacture and research projects, Siobhan now works as an analysis engineer of offshore renewable cables.*

*Through cutting edge FEED and R&D studies, engaging with moored floating platform designers and cable system hardware suppliers, she has mapped approaches to overcome challenges in developing cable configurations for offshore floating wind applications.*

### **About JDR Cable Systems**

*JDR is a leading provider of subsea cable technology and offshore services connecting the global offshore energy industry.*

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### **Alex Neumann** *Chief Engineer HV Electrical Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult*

#### **About Alex Neumann**

*Alex is the Chief Engineer, HV Systems, at the ORE Catapult focussed on supporting developers of new technology with development and qualification services and feeding back learning from failures experienced in service. HV power system design and HV insulation systems are his area of specialism, and he has a good understanding of HV power system design and operation from earlier career experience. Alex is a Fellow of the IET, with an MBA from Durham University and a BSc from the University of the Witwatersrand. He joined ORE Catapult (formerly Narec) fifteen years ago and has been Technical Manager of the company's HV test business ever since.*

#### **About Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult**

*The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult is a UK-based research and innovation centre that focuses on offshore renewable energy. Through provision of specialist test and advisory services, the ORE Catapult's mission is to help UK companies grow and create new products, processes, and services in the offshore renewable energy sector.*



**Robert Knowles**  
*Technical Director*  
**Vesipro**

### **About Robert Knowles**

*Robert is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and cable and flowline protection expert with extensive experience in the design and development of ancillary products for the Oil and Gas and Renewables markets, such as buoyancy and bend protection.*

*As Technical director at Vesipro he is focused on delivering product design and analysis projects as well as third party review and quality assurance services.*

### **About Vesipro**

*The Vesipro mission is to deliver packages of market ready technical solutions, with a strong emphasis on quality, reliability and scale. Our team of technical experts achieve this by working closely with manufacturing functions and supply chain.*

*Our primary focus is to deliver exemplary ancillary products for cables and flexibles for the offshore energy market. In addition to established product lines, we are also pioneering solutions to satisfy new requirements of the market, identified through our experience in the industry.*

*Vesipro sits within the R17 group in which companies work in accordance with R17 principles allowing seamless multidiscipline collaborations which creates optimum results for customers.*





**Will Brindley**  
*Lead Naval Architect*  
**Apollo**

### **About Will Brindley**

*As a chartered Naval Architect, Will has spent the last decade on the design, analysis, and integrity management of floating systems, cables, and moorings. Working at Apollo, Will authored two milestone industry reports on dynamic cable installation and maintenance for floating wind.*

### **About Apollo**

*Apollo is a UK-based engineering consultancy and energy advisory company. We specialise in providing engineering and advisory solutions across various sectors, including decarbonisation, offshore renewables, nuclear and oil and gas.*

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**Martin Jolliffe**  
*Director*  
**Osbit Ltd**

### **About Martin Jolliffe**

*Martin has over 15 years of experience in developing and delivering cutting-edge engineering systems for the offshore world. Prior to Osbit, Martin was a lead mechanical design engineer at several leading offshore engineering businesses. Martin joined Osbit in 2012 where he has cultivated his technical expertise by designing and delivering a range of complex systems, primarily for the offshore wind, tidal, and oil & gas markets.*

*Martin is a real believer in Osbit's approach of creating smarter, innovative solutions that provide our clients with the most effective equipment possible. In recent years, he has applied this approach and his range of experience, directly to Osbit's class leading range of dynamic cable flex fatigue testing systems. In his role as Director, Martin is passionate about developing our team's capability and using our skills to create next generation technology. He oversees Osbit's technical delivery, including teaching & learning, standards, and mentoring.*

### **About Osbit**

*Osbit designs and manufactures mission equipment for the offshore wind and offshore energy industries. Specialising in trenching equipment, cable laying, foundation installation, access and testing equipment. Osbit provides a wide range of systems to enable safe and efficient construction and maintenance of offshore wind projects. We regularly work with clients to understand the challenges of projects and provide tailored systems. Our modular technology approach means we always use the most appropriate technology for any given operation. We have worldwide production locations, to serve the needs of the global offshore wind industry.*



### Alan Dobson

*Director SURF – Product Marketing  
& Strategy*  
**TechnipFMC**

#### **About Alan Dobson**

*Alan is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with a Masters in Research and a PhD in subsea robotics. For the past 30 years he has worked in technology research, development and industrialisation for TechnipFMC, managing the engineering teams and Cable and Umbilical research centre in Newcastle upon Tyne. Alan is currently Director of Product Strategy for Umbilicals, Cables, Risers and Flowlines and is a Principal Technology Expert.*

#### **About TechnipFMC**

*TechnipFMC is a leading technology provider to the traditional and new energies industry; delivering fully integrated projects, products, and services. As a global leader in the traditional and renewable energy industry, TechnipFMC delivers innovative technologies, systems, and services to meet the world's energy needs now and in the future.*



### **John Davies** *Director – Trenching & Business Development* **Helix Robotics Solutions**

#### **About John Davies**

*John has been an Engineer within the Subsea, ROV industry for over 30 years. John has had a diverse career from working offshore, through to operations management, business development and now as director of trenching and business development for Helix Robotics Solutions.*

*As Director Trenching & Business Development, John is responsible for working with the senior management team to support the business's strategy in taking its assets and services in supporting all things energy*

#### **About Helix Robotics Solutions**

*Helix Robotics Solutions has established an extensive fleet of proven vessel based UXO, boulder clearance, trenching and ROV systems. Helix RS is experienced in all aspects of offshore services including: trenching, construction support, inspection, repair and maintenance, UXO identification and disposal (Low order Deflagration) and boulder relocation / ploughing. In addition, we also offer UXO consultation services throughout the life cycle of the project which includes reacting task to projects in construction as well as in operation.*

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**Norman Skillen**  
*General Manager*  
**Jan De Nul Group**

### **About Norman Skillen**

*Dr Norman Skillen is into his eleventh year in offshore wind, during a thirty year international energy sector career that has encompassed hydrocarbon production, renewable generation and energy networks. A scientist by background, his experience includes business development, management consultancy, international supply chain development, and offshore wind construction.*

*As the Jan De Nul Group UK & Ireland general manager, this role includes offshore wind primary component construction and installation, including EPCI/T&I business development. Norman also maintains a close interest in floating offshore wind, subsea cables and sustainable offshore construction.*

### **About Jan De Nul Group**

*As a tier one marine contractor engaged in building the energy transition, Jan De Nul Group offers full Engineering Procurement Construction and Installation (EPCI) and Balance of Plant (BoP) services for offshore wind and renewables industries. Individual services comprise of engineering design, foundation and wind turbine transport and installation, subsea cable installation, offshore substation installation, seabed preparation and stabilisation, scour protection, trenching, GBS foundation manufacture and ballasting.*

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**Elliott Shilling**  
*Head of Business Acquisition*  
*(Survey)*  
**Beam**

### **About Elliott Shilling**

*I studied oceanography at the University of Plymouth before starting my career at Gardline as a Trainee Commercial Manager, gaining insight across all aspects of the business. Since then, I've worked in project management and commercial roles for various survey and inspection providers. I was part of the pioneering team at XOCEAN that introduced Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) to gather data for offshore wind projects and their maintenance. At TGS, I focused on developing Data as a Service offerings. I joined Beam (formerly Rovco) in January 2024, where I am responsible for business acquisition and expanding our marine site characterisation business unit.*

### **About Beam**

*Beam is a leading deep technology company, using AI and autonomy on robotic ships and underwater robots to service offshore wind farms. Beam is empowering the global energy transition by delivering cutting edge automation that provides immediate time and cost savings across all lifecycle stages of a wind farm. Through these innovations, the company's mission is to change ways of working in the sector and improve the commercial case for offshore wind compared to oil and gas. Headquartered in the UK and recognised as one of Europe's fastest growing tech companies, Beam operates across global markets and employs over 200 people. For more information, visit [www.beam.global](http://www.beam.global).*



**Gary Howland**  
*Group Sales Director*  
**Tekmar Group**

### **About Gary Howland**

*Gary joined Tekmar Group in 2021 from subsea cable manufacturer JDR Cable Systems. Gary has over 15 years of experience in the offshore energy sector, having held business development and commercial positions for several cable and equipment manufacturers, and engineering companies. Gary holds an engineering degree in Marine Technology from Newcastle University.*

### **About Tekmar Group**

*Tekmar Group plc is a leading provider of innovative marine technology and services to the global offshore energy markets. The Group's three primary operating companies are Ryder, Tekmar Energy and Pipeshield International.*

- *Ryder is a geoscience, subsea engineering and analysis consultancy offering dependable support for offshore energy projects.*
- *Tekmar Energy is the global market leader in subsea cable and umbilical protection systems. Tekmar has been trusted to protect billions of Dollars' worth of subsea assets, particularly in the offshore wind sector.*
- *Pipeshield International is a leading provider of specialised concrete and rock subsea protection and stabilisation systems, serving both offshore energy and marine civils projects.*





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