Global Underwater Hub

HEADLINE SPONSOR

Great British ENERGY

Deepwater Wind Symposium

Tuesday 17 November 2026

P&J Live, Aberdeen

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.

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About the conference

Deepwater wind is emerging as a pivotal opportunity in the offshore energy transition, enabling access to sites beyond the reach of traditional fixed-bottom wind while offering a compelling alternative to floating solutions. However, unlocking its potential requires a clear understanding of the technical, operational and commercial challenges unique to deeper water environments.

This event brings together the expertise needed to address those challenges, exploring the critical role of subsea engineering, geotechnics, installation methodologies, marine operations and enabling technologies in making deepwater fixed wind commercially viable. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the latest innovations, practical strategies and collaborative pathways that can reduce project risk, improve development certainty and accelerate deployment at scale.

The foundation technologies enabling deepwater fixed wind

Entrion Wind, Marine Power Systems, Neretek and **OSI Renewables** will come together to discuss the foundation technologies they are developing to support offshore wind turbines on the seabed in deeper water.

These four foundation technology developers will share their technologies and plans, exploring what's possible, the technical and commercial challenges, and the capabilities and support needed from the supply chain. They will also take part in a panel discussion with Q&A, giving delegates the opportunity to ask questions directly and explore the practical requirements of bringing these technologies to market.

Setting the direction for deepwater wind

The day will open with a plenary featuring leading names from across the energy transition, including government representation, to set the wider context for the discussions that follow. Through interactive presentation sessions and afternoon workshops, delegates will contribute to the starting point for a road map to deepwater wind.

The aim is to bring together the knowledge, experience and perspectives needed to identify practical steps forward, from foundation technology development and supply chain requirements to challenges and reducing risk and improving commercial viability. Plans for the second session of the day will be announced in the coming weeks.

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Supporting partners

Great British Energy

Headline Sponsor

Great British Energy (GBE) is a publicly owned energy champion, created to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies and to ensure UK taxpayers, billpayers, communities and the energy workforce reap the benefits of a clean and secure energy system.

Our ambition is to become a lasting national institution that the British public will be proud of: a developer, constructor and owner of homegrown energy that is Clean, Secure and Yours. From our base in Aberdeen, we are building GBE not just as a company, but as a cornerstone of the UK's energy landscape: a trusted, transparent and innovative public champion that stands shoulder to shoulder with the leading state-owned energy companies of Europe. GBE will become recognised both at home and abroad as a world-class energy institution that embodies the values, expertise and ambition of the UK.

The Great British Energy Act, which received Royal Assent in May 2025, provided for the UK's first publicly owned national energy company to develop, own and operate energy assets since the privatisation of the Central Electricity Generating Board in the early 1990s. The 2025 Spending Review allocated GBE and GBE-Nuclear* over £8.3 billion to deploy towards our missions of delivering clean energy for the people.

Supporting partners

Crown Estate Scotland

Supporting Sponsor

Crown Estate Scotland manages the Scottish Crown Estate on behalf of Scottish Ministers, including significant areas of Scotland's seabed and the natural resources associated with it. Through its role in managing seabed rights and awarding leases for offshore renewable energy projects, it plays a key part in enabling the development of Scotland's offshore wind industry.

As the sector continues to evolve, Crown Estate Scotland supports the development of both fixed-bottom and floating offshore wind, helping to unlock the potential of Scotland's deeper waters and extensive offshore wind resources. By working collaboratively with developers, industry partners and other stakeholders, it helps create the conditions for responsible and sustainable development, balancing the opportunities presented by renewable energy with the long-term stewardship of Scotland's marine environment.

Through its management of the seabed and its engagement with the offshore wind sector, Crown Estate Scotland plays an important role in supporting Scotland's ambitions for renewable energy, investment and the continued growth of a sustainable offshore wind industry.

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Symposium Programme

08:30 – 09:00	**Registration, Coffee & Networking**
09:00 – 09:10	**Welcome & Opening Comments** Global Underwater Hub
09:10 – 09:30	**Welcome from our Headline Sponsor** Great British Energy
09:30 – 10:30	**Session 1 – Energy Transition Plenary** Crown Estate Scotland Great British Energy Scottish Government
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee & Networking**
11:00 – 12:00	**Session 2 – Structures** Entrion Wind Marine Power Systems Neretek OSI Renewables
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch & Networking**
13:00 – 14:00	**Session 3 – Installation: Opportunities & Challenges** Seaway7
14:00 – 14:50	**Session 4 – Roadmap to Deepwater Wind Workshop Session**
14:50 – 15:00	**Closing Comments** Global Underwater Hub
15:00 – 16:30	**Coffee, 1:1s & Open Networking**
16:30	**Event Close**

Session Facilitators

Global Underwater Hub

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Moderator

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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Moderator

Steve Fernie

Strategy & Policy Director

Global Underwater Hub

Steve Fernie is the Strategy & Policy Director 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 provides within the underwater space.

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Moderator

Matthew Heyman

Strategic Project Development Manager
Global Underwater Hub

Matthew's role with Global Underwater Hub (GUH) as Strategic Project Development Manager is primiariy tasked with the development of GUH strategic focus areas, taking a lead role in programme management to develop strategic relationships and projects with existing and potential service users – both members and partners – from across the respective underwater industry sectors. These extend to large corporations, Ses, OEMs, start-up companies, trade, industry and academic partners. A significant focus is on floating technologies including mooring, anchoring, connection-systems design, installation and testing and applications of these in multiple sectors. Matthew draws on significant industry experience gained in moorings and anchors, which focused on floating assets in both oil and gas and renewables.

In addition, Matthew works closely with our membership and wider supply chain, building on an extensive global career in business development spanning 30+ years in the maritime and offshore sectors and with experience in safety, training and crew management with leading companies like Maersk, Stena and Wilhelmsen.

Session Speakers

Global Underwater Hub

Speaker Biographies

Alan Macleay

Technical Director

Seaway7

Alan MacLeay has been working in the offshore renewable energy sector for more than 25 years. He is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He is currently Technical Director at Seaway7, the leading offshore wind installation contractor in the UK.

He is a board director at Renewable UK, chairman of the IMCA Renewables committee and sits on the FLOWEX Mission 5 delivery support group.

Speaker Biographies

Graham Foster

Chairman & CTO

Marine Power Systems

Graham has over 20 years industrial experience, 15 of which has been spent leading high value & high-tech R&D, and for the last 10 years he has been a founder / director of fast-moving technology start-up companies. Graham is a qualified mechanical engineer and gained a PhD from Swansea University.

He is a co-founder of Marine Power Systems and has a track record of financing high value start-up companies having raised multi-million grant and venture funding to date. Graham has a unique ability to create elegant solutions to highly challenging problems, creating sector leading IP in the process.

Graham is the CTO of the company and has overall responsibility for our product portfolio in parallel with the associated development strategy and managing IP.

Speaker Biographies

Jon Høvik

VP of Engineering

Entrion Wind

Mr. Jon Høvik has 35+ years of experience as technical design manager in a world leading supplier for heavy mooring equipment. Responsible for managing innovations, design and delivery of mooring systems for floating wind such as Hywind, and for monopile installation equipment since 2014.

An innovative Business Area Chief Technology Officer with strong leadership, equipped with technical skills, experience, and certifications to build, operate and anchor the activities related to the offshore industry including wind engineering, mooring systems and turbine foundations. Prior to joining Entrion Wind he has been working for over 30 years in Pusnes, Aker Solution and MacGregor as member of the management group; R&D Manager, Technical Manager and CTO for Offshore Wind MP handling and mooring equipment.

In ENTRION WIND he is responsible for building strategy of development, planning, coordinating, and overseeing activities in the Engineering and Development department, ensuring the implementation of efficient operations and cost-effective systems to meet current and future needs of the company.

He graduated as a Master of Science in Naval Architecture / Marine Engineering from NTH Trondheim (The Norwegian Institute of Technology) and RWTH Aachen, Germany

Speaker Biographies

Jonathan Cole

Chair

Neretek Limited

Jonathan is an experienced Adviser, Chair and Director, currently serving as Executive Chair of Neretek, Non-Executive Chair of Varda Advisory and External Adviser to Boston Consulting Group. Jonathan has previously held prominent industry positions including: Founding CEO of Corio Generation and Iberdrola's Global Offshore Wind Business; Chair of the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), Chair of the Global Offshore Wind Health and Safety Organisation (G+) and Chair of the UK Government's Offshore Wind Programme Board.

Seen as one of the leading ambassadors for the Offshore Wind Sector globally, Jonathan has received numerous industry leadership awards and is a frequent keynote speaker at prominent industry events.

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Speaker Biographies

Sarah Knight

Senior Development Manager

Crown Estate Scotland

Sarah Knight is Senior Development Manager at Crown Estate Scotland, where she leads work to support the growth of Scotland's offshore renewable energy sector. Her role focuses on enabling strategic offshore developments, specifically in offshore wind that contribute to Scotland's net zero ambitions.

Sarah brings over fifteen years of experience in the energy sector, including ten years in the oil and gas industry as a contracts advisor within the supply chain. A qualified solicitor, she combines legal, commercial, and industry expertise to work collaboratively with government, industry, and key stakeholders to unlock investment and accelerate the delivery of sustainable offshore energy projects.

Sarah is passionate about supporting the transformation of Scotland's offshore energy sector and creating the conditions for innovative low-carbon projects to succeed at scale.

Speaker Biographies

Rob Gilbert

Supply Chain Director

Great British Energy

Rob Gilbert serves as the Director of Supply Chain at Great British Energy, the UK's publicly backed clean energy investment company. In this role, Rob leads the development and delivery of national supply chain strategy to support the UK's energy transition. His remit includes driving industrial capacity, supporting local content and workforce development, and securing resilient supply networks across offshore wind, solar, and transmission infrastructure.

Rob brings over a decade of experience in energy, infrastructure, and government advisory, having previously been a Partner at Baringa, where he led major engagements across energy market design, procurement strategy, and public-private investment programmes. He has worked with leading utilities, policymakers, and regulators to address systemic supply chain bottlenecks and accelerate clean energy delivery.

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Speaker Biographies

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Zoe Crutchfield

Marine Directorate – Head of Licensing Operations Team

Scottish Government

Zoe Crutchfield is an experienced marine consenting and environmental management specialist who has served as Head of the Licensing Operations Team within the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate since 2018. Based in the Aberdeen Area, Zoe began her career in the oil and gas industry before moving into marine nature conservation and then offshore wind farm and port and harbour development.

As Head of Licensing Operations, Zoe plays a leading role in regulating marine activities and offshore infrastructure projects in Scottish waters. This involves working with Scottish Ministers, applicants, statutory consultees and all marine users to deliver a robust marine licensing and consenting regime.

SUBSEA EXPO

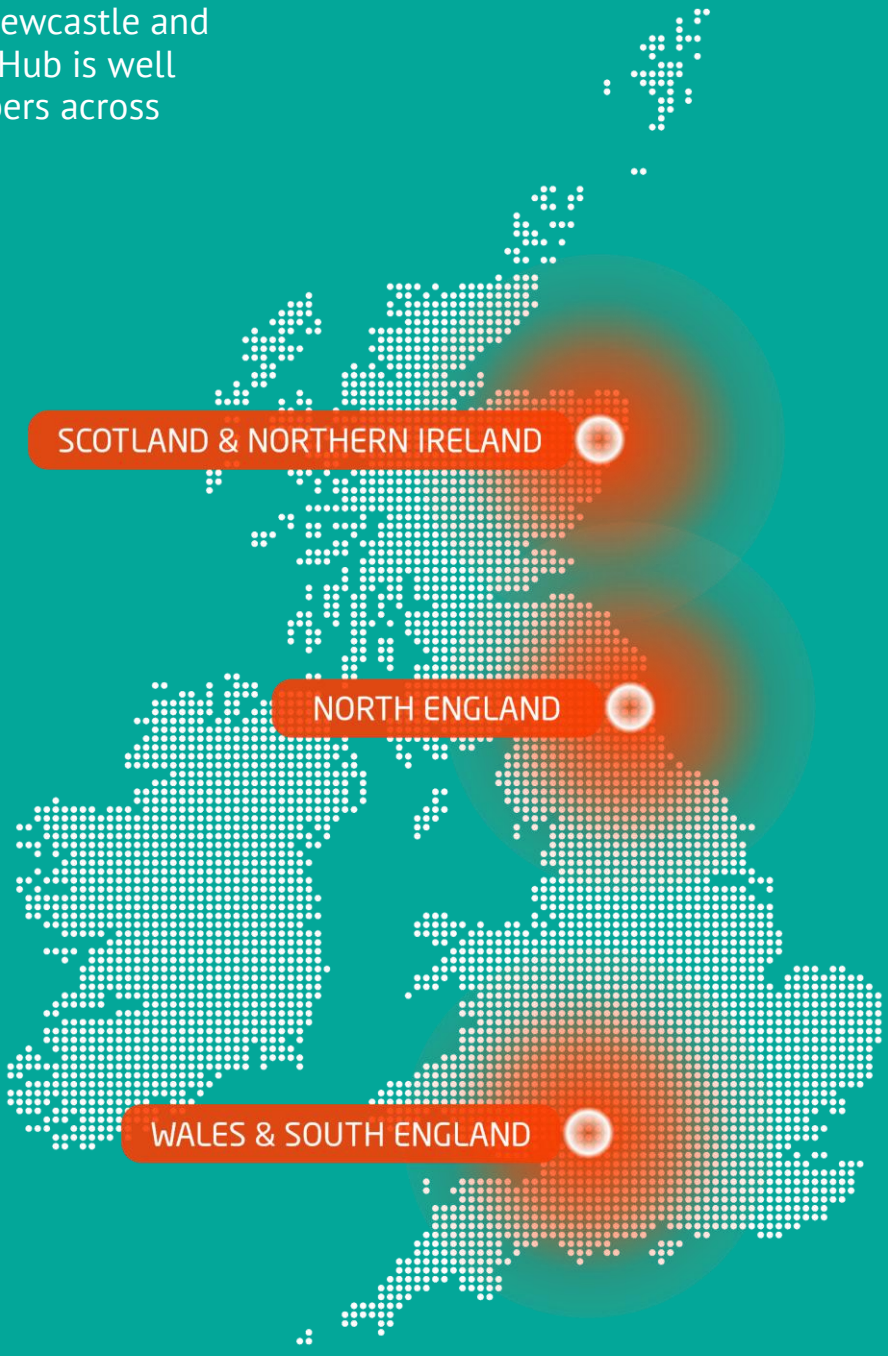
P&J Live Aberdeen, 10-11 March 2027

Find out more at

subseaexpo.com

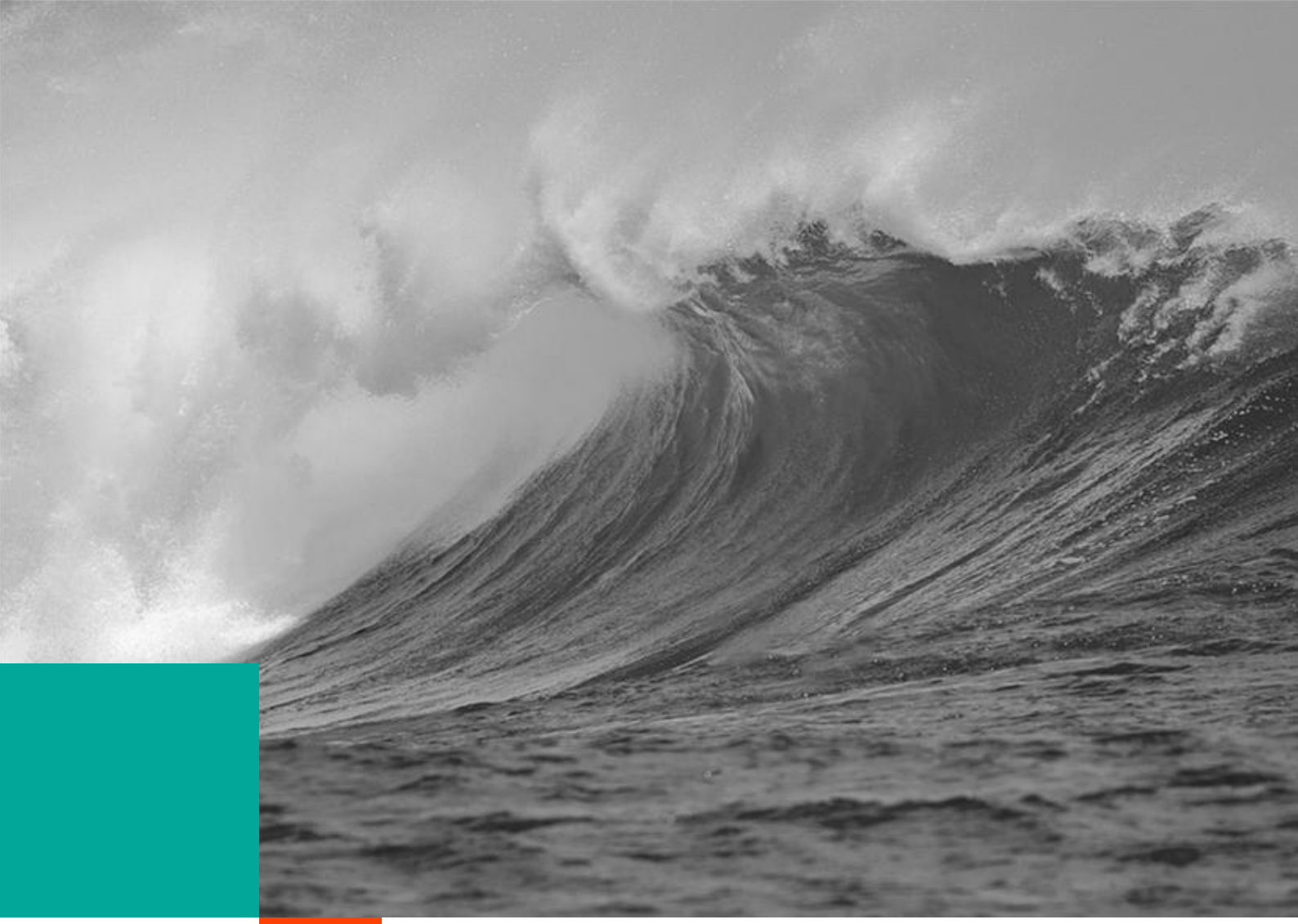
Led and governed by industry, Global Underwater Hub is helping to transform the UK's underwater industry into one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the country, accelerating the drive to net-zero and creating high value jobs and exports.

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



Access. Connect. Grow.

Global Underwater Hub



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