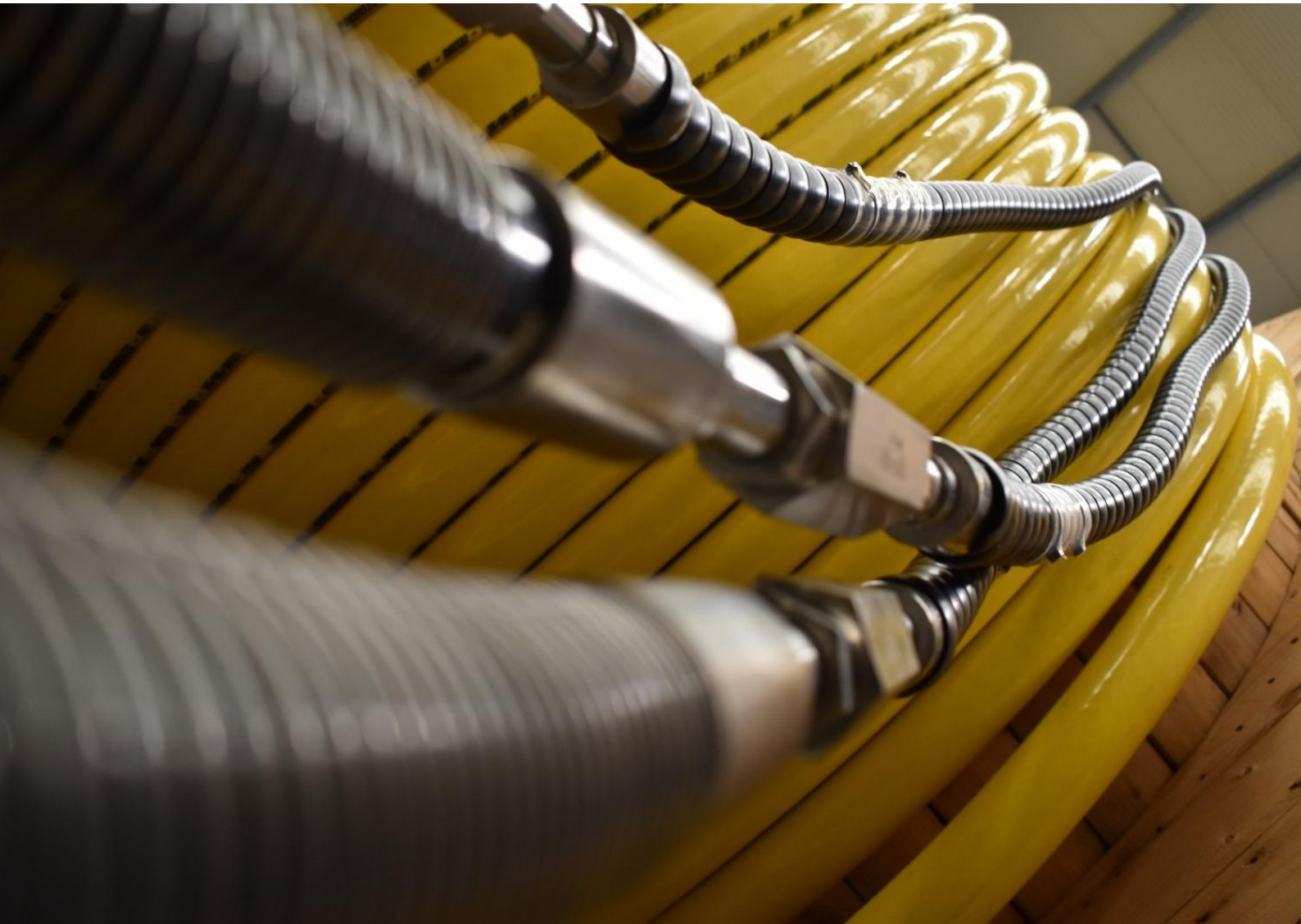
Umbilicals Conference

Shaping the future through collaboration

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Global Underwater Hub, Westhill, 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.

www.globalunderwaterhub.com

Global Underwater Hub

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

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Conference overview

The 2026 edition of the Umbilicals Conference marks the sixth 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 – Shaping the future collaboration

Taking the theme of **Umbilicals – Shaping the future through collaboration**, 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.

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Confirmed speakers

Delegates attending the **Umbilicals Conference** on Tuesday, 10 November 2026 will hear insights from representatives of the following organisations:

Supporting partners

Harlyn Solutions

Will Stephenson

Commercial Director

A global engineering transportation company. We support our customers in solving complex transportation challenges.

With our six product lines of: Subsea Power Cable and Umbilical transportation and storage Unusual Cargo Movement End-to-end transportation Bridging Inco-terms Mobilisation Services and Engineering Consultancy we are a leader in delivering engineered transportation solutions.

Whether it is a heavy lift or the movement of something unusual we can support you. You make incredible. We move incredible.

To find out more visit the Harlyn Solutions website here.

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Speaker biographies

Phil Ashley

Ex Chair

Umbilical Manufacturers Federation

CEO for the Dynamic Cables group within Harsh Environment of Hexatronic AB, which currently compromises Rochester Cable and Fibron Cable.

Thirty years experience in Subsea Manufacturing sector largely working in Subsea Controls, Connectors and Sensing before moving into Subsea Umbilicals Industry in 2020.

Outgoing year (2026) as Chairman of UMF, have undertaken the role for three years.

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday 10 November 2026

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.

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Speaker biographies

John Stansfield

Discipline Lead

bp

Responsible for the engineering and procurement of all bp subsea umbilical, power cable & flexible pipe. Leading a global team of engineers to deliver products to all our subsea projects globally.

With over 30 years of experience of design, manufacturing, procurement and offshore construction of subsea flexible products.

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Conference programme

09:30	Doors open for registration
09:30 – 10:00	**Networking and refreshments**
10:00 – 10:10	**Opening address** Phil Ashley, ex chair, UMF
10:10 – 10:20	**Welcome remarks** Neil Gordon, CEO, Global Underwater Hub
10:20 – 10:30	**Sponsor spotlight** Will Stephenson, Commercial Director
10:30 – 10:50	**Operators insight – what 600+ umbilical's issues actually tell us** John Stansfield, Discipline Lead, BP
10:50 – 11:20	**Networking break**

Session One

11.20 – 11:35	**Presentation title TBC** JDR Cables
11:35 – 11:50	**Delivering Diversity** Becky Harrison, Human Resources Director, Fibron Cables
11:50 – 12:05	**Offshore umbilical retermination: shaping the future through collaboration** Alexander Hendrix, OneSubsea SLB
12:05 – 12:20	**Hysteretic bending behaviour of high-voltage power cores in dynamic umbilical applications** Keir Barbary, Mechanical Engineer, Oceaneering International

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Conference programme

12:20 – 12:45	**Panel discussion**
12:45 – 13:00	**TBC Speaker slot**
13.00 – 14:00	**Lunch and networking**

Session Two

14:00 – 14:15	**A human-AI hybrid approach to weld inspection, quality prediction, and process control** Thomas Ramser, Head of Business Field, Tubacex
14:15 – 14:30	**Strip-splice welding for seam-weld tubing: driving reliability and innovation In subsea umbilicals** Tucker Melvin, Subsea Technical Lead, Webco Industries
14:30 – 14:45	**Do umbilicals really fail: or is it the connection system components that go wrong?** David Saul, Chief Consultant, Astrimar
14:45 – 15:00	**Upgrades in umbilical terminations for production facilities** Dr Pierpaolo Ricci, Director of Moorings & Floating Systems, Tadek
15:00– 15:30	**Panel Session** Phil Ashley, UMF and Neil Gordon, GUH
15:30 – 15:35	**Vote of thanks** Neil Gordon, CEO, Global Underwater Hub
15.35 – 16.00	**Networking and close of event**

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Session 1

Speaker TBC

JDR Cables

Becky Harrison

Human Resources Director

Fibron Cables

Alexander Hendrix

Project Engineer

OneSubsea (SLB)

Keir Barbary

Mechanical Engineer

Oceaneering International

Umbilicals Conference

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Session 2

Thomas Ramser

Head of Business Field: umbilicals tubes & SME

Tubacex

Tucker Melvin

Subsea Technical Lead

Webco Industries

David Saul

Chief Consultant

Astrimar

Dr Pierpaolo Ricci

Director of Moorings & Floating Systems

Tadek

Future events from Global Underwater Hub

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, where you can also sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

Deepwater Wind Symposium

17 November 2026 | **P&J Live, Aberdeen**

This event brings together the expertise needed to address the challenges facing deepwater wind, exploring the critical role of subsea engineering, geotechnics, installation methodologies, marine operations and enabling technologies in making deepwater fixed wind commercially viable.

Unexploded Ordnance Conference

2 December 2026 | **Blyth, Newcastle**

Join industry leaders, developers, regulators, and technical specialists for a dedicated forum exploring the latest challenges, innovations, and best practices in unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk management. The conference will provide valuable insights into project planning, survey methodologies, clearance operations, safety, and regulatory developments, while offering excellent opportunities to network with key stakeholders from across the offshore energy and marine sectors.

Subsea Expo 2027

10-11 March 2027 | **P&J Live, Aberdeen**

Subsea Expo 2027 will bring the underwater industry together with a clear purpose: to help companies build relationships, showcase their capabilities, discuss and debate industry challenges and opportunities, and generate business. “Our theme, ‘Bridging the Gap’, reflects the connections that make this possible, bringing together technology developers and end users, suppliers and decision-makers, and industry challenges with supply chain solutions.

Learn more about the Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation

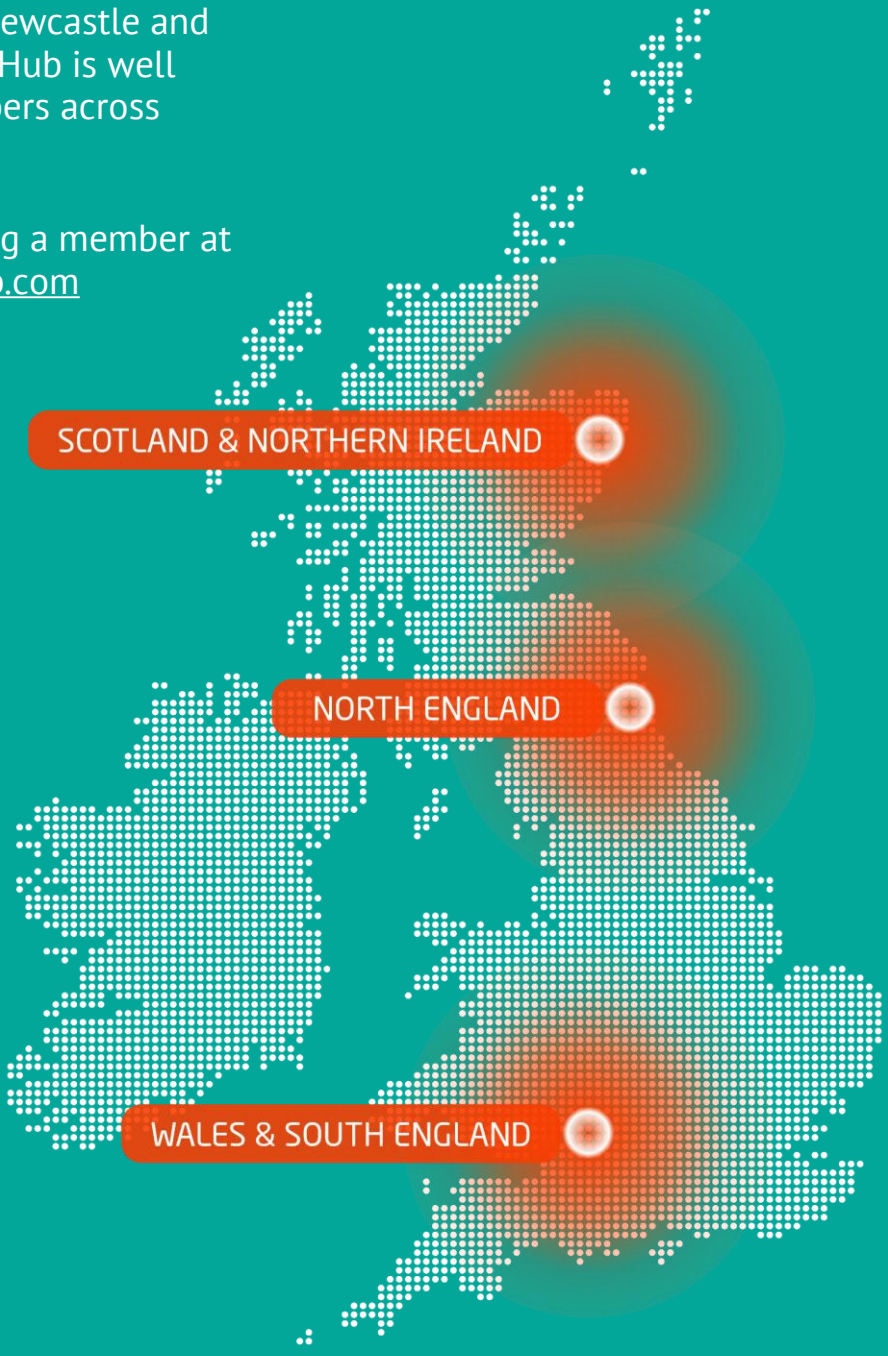
To discover more about the **Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation** and its members, visit its website, where you will also find out more about becoming a member, be able to access guidance notes and learn about the roles of its different committees.

www.umf.as

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.

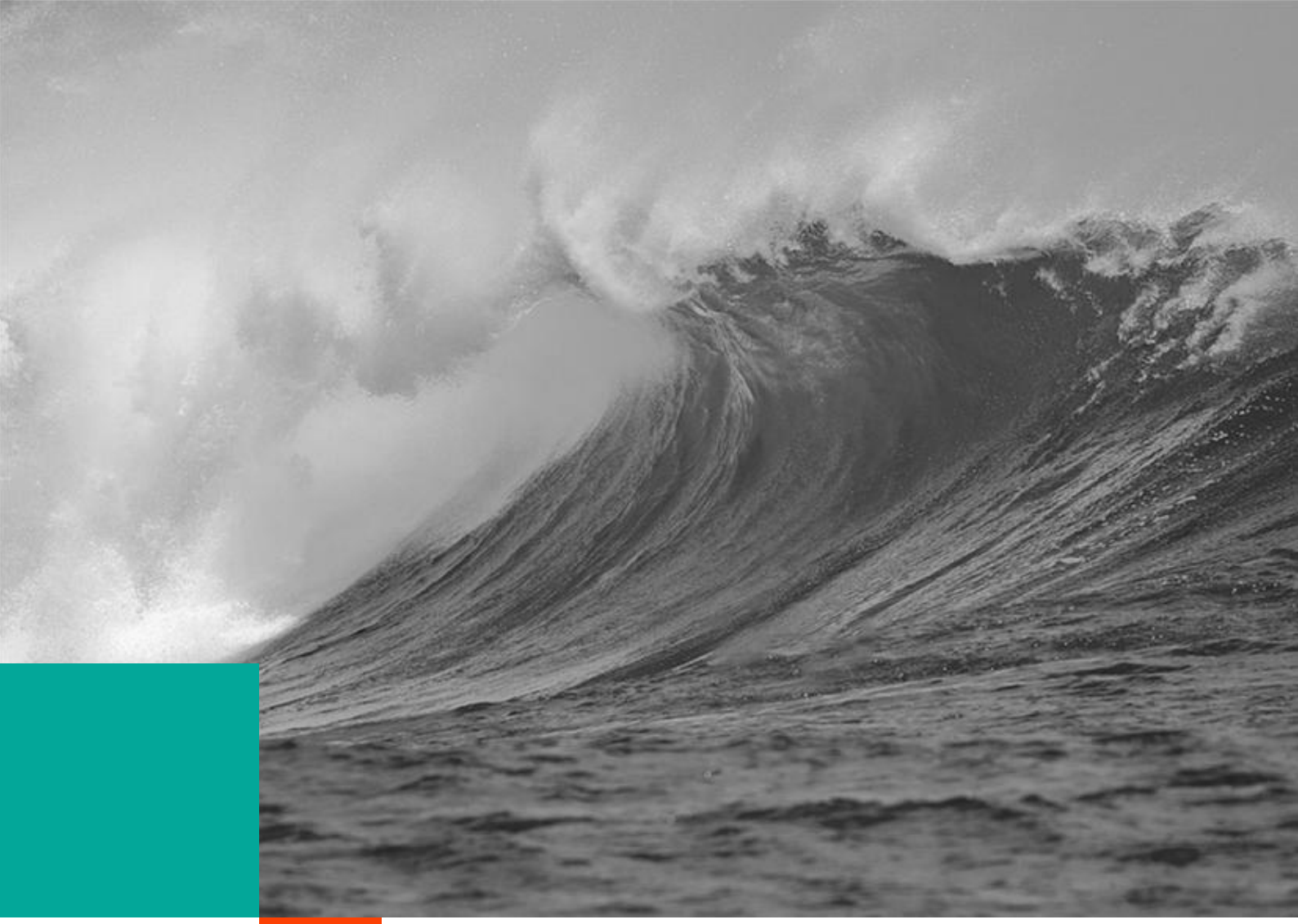
With offices in Aberdeen, Newcastle and Bristol, Global Underwater Hub is well placed to support its members across the United Kingdom.

Learn more about becoming a member at www.globalunderwaterhub.com



Access. Connect. Grow.

Global Underwater Hub



Global Underwater Hub

1 Abercrombie Court
Arnhall Business Park
Prospect Road
Westhill
Aberdeen
AB32 6FE

01224 506600
info@theguh.co.uk

www.globalunderwaterhub.com