

Global Underwater Hub

Subsea Cable Insurance Conference and Workshop 2026

Wednesday, 20 May

Hilton Canary Wharf, London

Increase cable reliability. Drive technological advancement.
Influence industry standards



Image: MAATS

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.

Subsea Cable Insurance Conference & Workshop

Wednesday, 20 May 2026

Welcome to today's conference

Global Underwater Hub's popular Subsea Cable Insurance Conference and Workshop returns for its fourth edition, following the hugely successful inaugural 2023 event in London.

Around the world, over £800billion of investment in offshore wind farms is anticipated by 2030. Coupled to this, for global net-zero targets to be achieved by 2050, an increasing volume of energy must come from offshore renewable sources. To deliver this, hundreds of thousands of kilometres of reliable subsea cables will need to be installed, maintained and insured.

The Subsea Cable Insurance Conference and Workshop will once again focus on the serious impact that cable faults can have on the future growth of the offshore wind and wider offshore renewable energy sectors.

The programme will centre on three key topics:

- **Reliability**
- **Handling, installation, protection**
- **Monitoring**

With subsea cables playing an intrinsic role in bringing the clean, green renewable energy produced at sea on shore, ensuring their reliability is critical to maintaining supply and the effective operation of the offshore assets to which they are connected. Subsea cable failures can occur for many reasons and there are numerous factors that can contribute to their timely replacement. All of which can impact insurability and are considerations that insurance buyers and brokers must contemplate.

Through a combination of presentations, panel sessions and a workshop, this event sets out to continue building the dialogue around this important topic, with contributions from stakeholders, including regulators, who work across the subsea cable, insurance and offshore renewable energy sectors.

Subsea Cable Insurance Conference & Workshop

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Confirmed Speakers

Delegates attending the **Subsea Cable Insurance Conference & Workshop 2026** on Wednesday, 20 May will hear from representatives of the following organisations.



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Conference Programme

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Speeches Neil Gordon - Global Underwater Hub
09:10 – 09:20	Market Overview Michael Brooks - Risk Panel Marine
09:20 – 10:50	Session 1: Reliability Neil Gordon - Global Underwater Hub Matthew Truel – Red Penguin Marine - ESCA Andy Simmonds – SeaThor Hugh Martindale – Hawkins & Associates GQ Xu - SCOR
10:50 – 11:20	Coffee & Networking
11:20 – 11:30	Crown Estate's £50m Supply Chain Accelerator Verdeep Dost – The Crown Estate
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2: Handling, Installation, Protection Steve Fernie - Global Underwater Hub Dr Lindsay Smith - SMD Henrik Bang-Andreasen - Portunus Paul Bollerman - ECE Offshore BV Andrew Hastings - Maritime Developments Ltd Daniel Sim - AON
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & Networking
14:00 – 15:20	Session 3: Monitoring Alex MacPhie - Global Underwater Hub Chris Minto - Indeximate Richard Hill - Waves Group Robert Earrey – InterProtect Jonny Atkins – Travelers
15:20 – 15:30	Closing Comments
15:30 – 16:00	Networking & Close

**Please note this is a draft programme and subject to change.*



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Exhibiting Companies

Delegates attending the **Subsea Cable Insurance Conference & Workshop 2026** on Wednesday, 20 May will have the opportunity to meet our exhibiting companies and network throughout the day.



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Supporting partners



Workshop Partner

The Carbon Trust

Global Underwater Hub are pleased to partner with the Carbon Trust in the delivery of our workshop sessions at Cables Insurance 2026. Drawing on the focus on subsea cables established by GUH together with a wider initiative by the Carbon Trust to understand and influence offshore wind insurance, innovation and project de-risking above and below the water line, the greatest opportunity is to work together.

GUH and the Carbon Trust recognise that by convening industry, insurance and the offshore wind ecosystem together, the greatest opportunity exists to effect meaningful progress. Following on from the Carbon Trust's successful 2026 roundtable and planned Whitepaper, GUH is delighted to recognise and drive subsea cables as a core area of focus and opportunity. The outputs of the workshop sessions, which have become a staple of GUH events owing to the strong technical and knowledge base of attendees, will influence both the GUH post-event report and objectives, but also a focus on subsea cables within the Carbon Trust recommendations which we look forward to developing in tandem.

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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



Michael Brooks

Principal CEO

RiskPanel-Marine

A 30+ year career comprising roles as SVP with leading Norwegian Offshore Vessel Group, CEO of UK-based subsea company, I hold degrees in Commercial Law, Economics, and Advanced Accountancy, with technical accreditations from AODC, NELP, and the MCA.

Supporting HVDC subsea investors and insurers, RiskPanel-Marine offers independent due diligence for subsea HVDC investment & insurance, focusing on risk mitigation, business interruption protocols to ensure coverage mandates are met.

In collaboration with Dr. Ron Haynes, I developed the 4C DTS blueprint covering subsea cable installation CBRA for FID criteria, author of two Industry papers covering risk matrix blueprints for offshore interconnector serviceability.



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Speaker biographies



Matthew Truell

Snr Project Engineer

Red Penguin Marine

Co-Chair of ESCA Renewable & Power Cables Sub Group

Matthew Truell is a Senior Project Engineer and subsea cable specialist with over 12 years of experience in offshore power and telecommunications cable systems. He has led and advised on numerous HVDC maintenance and repair programmes across Europe and Oceania, including fault response, repair preparedness, permitting, and offshore execution.

Matthew currently advises on interconnector maintenance for National Grid Ventures and provides technical leadership on repair preparedness, burial risk, and asset integrity. His background combines deep technical expertise in subsea operations with practical experience delivering complex, multi-jurisdictional cable repair campaigns in challenging marine environments.



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Speaker biographies



Andy Simmonds

Owner

SeaThor Limited



Andy Simmonds is Founder and Director of SeaThor Limited, a UK-based engineering and analysis company focused on innovative subsea cable solutions for the offshore energy sector. He brings extensive experience from previous positions in offshore cable design and engineering.

At SeaThor, Andy leads the development of advanced technologies such as CableSpring - an integrated buoyancy and dynamic cable protection system designed to improve the durability and reliability, as well as lowering the system costs for floating offshore wind and other marine energy applications.

Under his direction, SeaThor has secured significant industry support and funding to progress CableSpring's development and real-world testing.

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Speaker biographies



Hugh Martindale

Forensic Investigator

Hawkins & Associates

Hugh is a Chartered Engineer with the IMechE. He has degrees in Architecture and Mechanical Engineering, and a Mechanical Engineering PhD from UCL on the behaviour of flexible pipe tensile armour in the region of an end fitting.

After twenty years in mechanical engineering consultancy including flexible pipe, marine hose and subsea power cable failure root cause analysis, oil and gas subsea equipment procurement support, and the development of linear and non-linear analytical models for subsea power cable structural modelling for offshore wind farm applications, Hugh is now the subsea power cable specialist within Hawkins' power and energy forensic investigation group



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Speaker biographies



GuangQuan XU

New Energy Practice Head
SCOR

PhD in Engineering. Over 13 years' experience in the offshore industry, worked on various offshore wind farm projects worldwide as an engineer, including offshore Europe, Taiwan, mainland China, Japan and USA.

Joined SCOR's London office as an underwriter in 2019 to build SCOR's offshore renewable book and been promoted to New Energy Practice Head in 2023, with overall responsibility to grow SCOR's portfolio in low carbon sector.

Past committee member of several international industry bodies including IECRE. Current Co-chair of JNRC Offshore Wind Subcommittee and member of LMA Renewable Energy Committee.



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Speaker biographies



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 providers within the underwater space.



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Speaker biographies



Verdeep Dost

Infrastructure Investment Director
The Crown Estate

Verdeep is responsible for infrastructure investment at The Crown Estate, with a focus on supporting the construction of new port and supply chain infrastructure for the offshore wind industry. The aim is to deliver financial, social and environmental value for the nation through The Crown Estate's £50m Supply Chain Accelerator and £350m Supply Chain Investment Programme.

Prior to joining The Crown Estate, Verdeep worked in infrastructure and private equity funds, deploying over €3.5 billion of capital in sectors including renewable energy, utilities, transport and digital infrastructure

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Speaker biographies



Dr Lindsay Smith

Business Development Manager
SMD

Dr Lindsay Smith joined SMD in 2023 as Business Development Manager for New Technologies. With a PhD in Electrical Engineering and over ten years' experience in subsea research and development, she plays a pivotal role in driving the integration and commercialisation of cutting-edge technologies. Lindsay's expertise contributes to SMD's ongoing efforts to advance subsea innovation and deliver practical solutions for the industry.

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Speaker biographies



Henrik Bang-Andreasen

CEO

Portunus Solution Ltd.

Henrik Bang-Andreasen is a leading expert in offshore cable protection systems and marine technology, with more than 40 years of industry experience. He is the founder of Portunus Solutions Ltd and the former founder of Seaproof Solutions, where he developed multiple innovative cable protection solutions and patents.

Henrik has also led the Norwegian operations of MacArtney Underwater Technology Group and brings deep expertise in offshore energy, cable installation, and underwater operations.



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Speaker biographies



Paul Bollerman

R&D Manager

ECE Offshore BV

With a broad technical background, Paul joined ECE Offshore in 2019. In the role of R&D Manager, he is responsible for the development of both hardware and software for ECE Offshore's OASYS system, translating complex technical challenges into robust, field-ready solutions.

Prior to joining ECE Offshore, Paul worked as a freelance software consultant, delivering tailored solutions across a range of technical projects.



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Speaker biographies



Andrew Hastings

Technical Authority

Martime Developments Limited



Andrew brings over two decades of cross-disciplinary expertise spanning Civil, Structural, Mechanical, and Offshore Engineering. His career reflects a commitment to technical excellence, innovation, and back-deck solutions in challenging marine environments.

For the past 14 years, Andrew has played a pivotal role in the Marine Energy Sector, involved in the design engineering and project delivery of Flex-lay systems and subsea deployment of flexibles. With deep technical knowledge of subsea product handling, Andrew has supported and managed projects involving subsea umbilicals, risers, flowlines, power cables, fibre optics, synthetic ropes, and spiral strand wire moorings – from factory transpooling through to seabed installation.

Andrew is a key advocate of innovation at MDL, where he leads the company's Innovation Forum; collaborating with cross-functional teams to explore emerging technologies and develop forward-thinking solutions for the Flex-lay market. His leadership also extends to Business Improvement, where he spearheads digitalisation efforts, championing the adoption of IoT, AI, and remote monitoring technologies across engineering and operational functions.

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Speaker biographies



Daniel Sim

Executive Director

AON

Daniel joined the offshore renewables team in January 2024, bringing 25+ years of global maritime know-how. A Chartered Engineer and Chartered Marine Engineer with a Master of Engineering, he's spent his career at the sharp end of offshore construction, from T&I and heavy lifts to deep-water subsea projects.

Having worked as a Marine Warranty Services Manager, Loss Adjuster, Marine Casualty Investigator, Risk Consultant and Expert Witness, Daniel now excels as a Strategic Account Manager. He turns complex offshore risks into clear, confident solutions, guiding clients from placement to claims with a calm, commercial mindset and a passion for practical results.

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Speaker biographies



Alex MacPhie

Chair of GUH's UK Subsea Cable Systems Forum

Global Underwater Hub

With a career spanning over 35 years working in engineering, offshore energy, consultancy and executive coaching, Alex MacPhie is an experienced business leader with a deep understanding of the energy industry and its wider supply chain.



He has extensive experience working in the offshore energy sector, which included serving as Chief Technology Officer with JDR Cable Systems Ltd and roles at Oceaneering and Motorola. His knowledge and insight has led to Alex being asked to chair Global Underwater Hub's UK Subsea Cable System Forum which launched in 2025, bringing together supply chain companies from across the lifecycle of offshore wind projects.

Alex holds a BSc degree in Physical Sciences from UWS and earned an MBA from University of Edinburgh. He is the previous Chair of the Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation and a member of the OWIH Technical Advisory Group.

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Speaker biographies



Dr Chris Minto

Director & Founder
Indeximate

With a PhD in Physics, Chris has filled his career with a focus on new product introduction in acoustic and for the last 15 years pioneering fibre optic sensing.

Chris is well known in the sensing industry for his thought leadership, extensive publication and patent track record.

In 2022 he co-founded Indeximate with a mission to move the industry away from an “alerting” based paradigm to fully exploit the potential of sensing systems in order to tackle the critical problem of failure in subsea power cables.



INDEXIMATE

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Speaker biographies



Richard Hill

Subsea Cable Specialist

Waves Group

Richard Hill is Submarine Cable Specialist at Waves Group, an independent multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy. He has been involved in the marine engineering industry for over 30 years.

As a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, he has broad experience as a senior subsea cable specialist and has been intimately involved in a wide range of telecom and power cable projects working within UK, European, Middle East, Asian and African waters.

His specialties include system specification, design, engineering, risk management and installation / construction. This includes vessel & equipment operations, subsea equipment design, client representation and investigations working both on and offshore.

He has held responsibility for a wide range of cable related activities including multiple cable repairs, cross sector liaison and system decommissioning at the end of life. This also includes the investigation and resolution of many technical and commercial matters, associated with subsea cable handling, laying, burial, repair and shore-end operations.



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Speaker biographies



Robert Earrey

Founder

InterProtect

Rob has built an impressive career spanning over 15 years in the insurance industry, with a deep and diverse range of experience. He began his career in marine claims, here he gained a thorough understanding of the foundational principles of insurance, particularly how insurance contracts are applied and the impact of specific wordings within those contracts.

As Rob advanced in the industry, he shifted focus to drafting insurance contracts, honing his expertise in creating tailored coverage solutions that meet the unique needs of clients. Moving into placement, he was responsible for placing various complex risks in the market.

In his most recent role before founding InterProtect, Rob led a global initiative focused on cable risks at one of the world's largest broking houses. During this time, he played a pivotal role in the placement of some of the largest interconnector risks globally, along with a broad portfolio of subsea cable placements. His leadership in these high-stakes projects further solidified his reputation as an expert in the subsea cable and power sector.

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Speaker biographies



Jonny Aitkins

Senior Underwriter

Travelers

Jonny is Head of Offshore Renewables at Travelers. He has been underwriting offshore wind and offshore transmission assets globally for nine years and is experienced in both Construction All Risks and Operation All Risks.

Jonny co-chairs the Lloyd's Market Association Offshore Wind Sub-Committee and has worked in the renewable energy insurance market for over 10 years, having moved into underwriting after two years of renewable energy loss adjusting.



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.

Underwater Robotics

Tuesday, 30 June | **Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh**

This established annual conference is focused on the development and application of underwater robotic technology. The one-day event is set to explore topics including data acquisition, AI and interpretation; regulation and insurance; seabed crawlers and intervention; and the new wave of developments and the challenges and opportunities they bring



UXO Conference

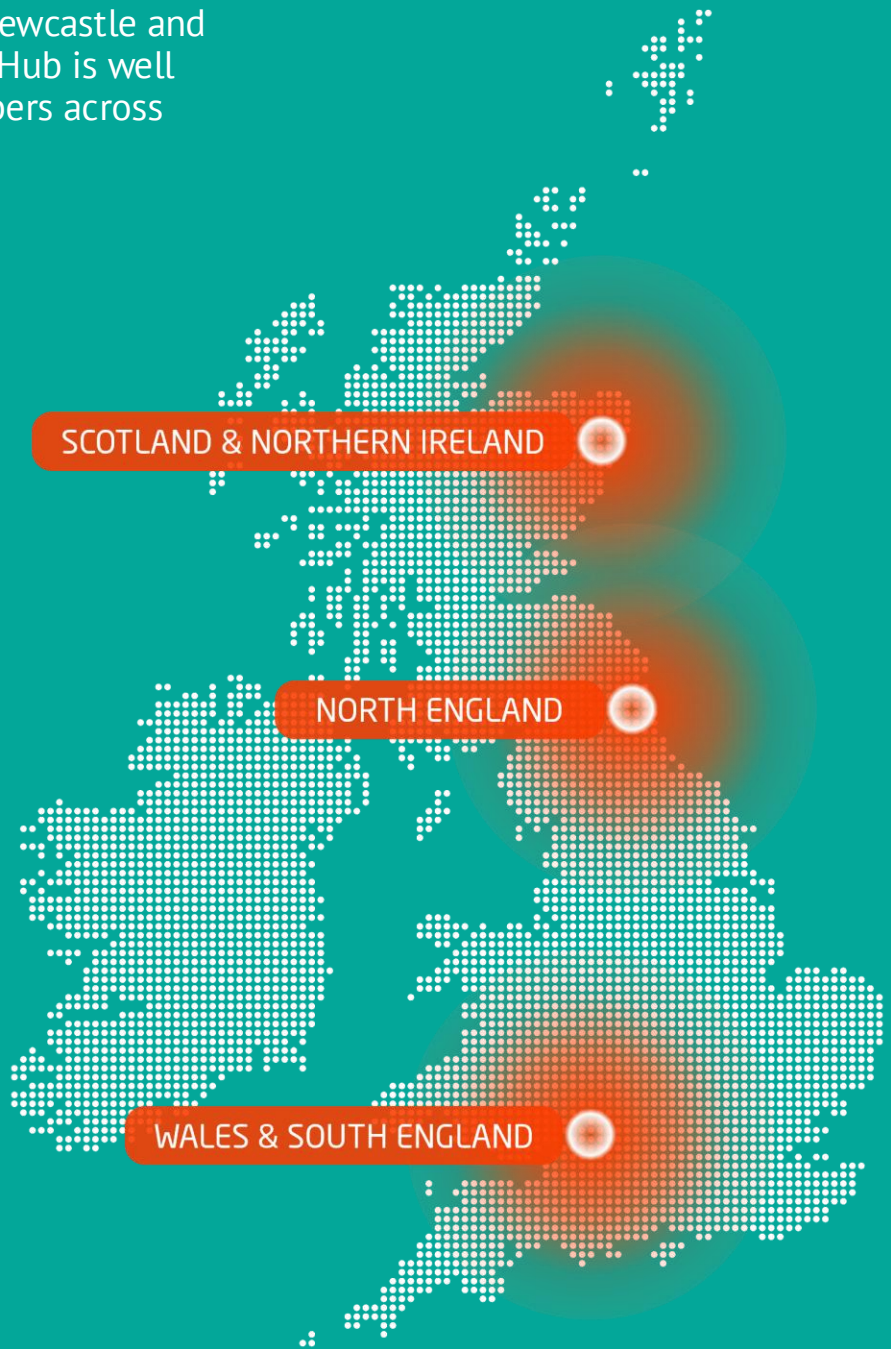
Thursday, 01 October | **The Catalyst, Newcastle**

Conference focused on the critical area of unexploded ordnance in the marine environment. Exploring current practices to raise awareness and identify improvement areas for data collection, knowledge sharing mechanisms and the prioritisation of environmentally sustainable methods of disposal.



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.





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