

# Global Underwater Hub

## Subsea Cable Insurance Conference and Workshop 2025

Wednesday, 02 July

Hilton London Canary Wharf, London



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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## Welcome to today's conference

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

Around the world, over £800 billion 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:

- Failure modes
- Repair solutions
- Integrity monitoring and management

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 and Workshop



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## Conference programme

08:30	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome from Neil Gordon, Chief Executive, Global Underwater Hub
09:15 – 09:30	Keynote presentation: Adam Reed, Allianz Commercial
09:30 – 10:30	Session one – Failure modes
10:30 – 10:50	Networking break
10:50 – 11:50	Session two – Proactive interventions
11:55 – 12:55	Session three – Integrity monitoring and management
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:45	Workshop
14:45 – 15:00	Networking break
15:00 – 15:45	Workshop
15:45 – 16:00	Closing comments

# Subsea Cable Insurance Conference and Workshop



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## Overview and keynote speaker

Building on the success of previous conferences, the third edition of Global Underwater Hub's popular Subsea Cable Insurance Conference and Workshop is once again centred on the critical area of subsea cable reliability and insurability.

Featuring a morning of presentations and panel discussions, followed by an afternoon workshop that fosters collaboration and discussion, the event aims to continue driving forward debate and discussion on what is an important and potentially costly industry topic.

### Keynote presentation

Following a welcome address by Neil Gordon, Chief Executive of Global Underwater Hub, the event's keynote presentation will be delivered by Adam Reed of Allianz Commercial, which provides a wide range of tailored commercial and specialty insurance solutions. This includes for offshore wind and the wider renewables sector. Adam will provide an insurer's perspective on the challenges associated with cable failure, underwriting considerations, the risks involved in new technological approaches and overall market expansion.

#### Adam Reed



Global Leader - Offshore Renewables & Upstream Energy  
Allianz Commercial

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## Session one – Failure modes

Analysis to date suggests that failures within the cable system are not limited to one particular area or that a greater number of failures tend to be more frequent in one area of the life cycle than another. In addition, failure reporting tends to classify the cause at a very high level rather than providing granular detail.

This session seeks to understand from a technical perspective the main real causes of failure. It will also touch upon root cause analysis (RCA) and how this should be specified and undertaken.



### Neil Gordon (session chair)

Chief Executive

Global Underwater Hub



### Laura Watson

Energy Transition Risk Consulting Lead

AXA XL Insurance



### Ross Piercey

Product Manager - Cables

James Fisher Renewables



### Rameeza Duggal

Senior Analyst – Subsea Power Cables and Substation

TGS 4C Offshore



### Darren Moore

Principal Engineer

BPP Tech

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## Session two – Proactive interventions

This session seeks to understand various emerging mechanisms in place to allow repairs to be managed and carried out more proactively than waiting until an emergency response is required.

Vessel repair clubs and universal joints and connectors are two such strategies designed to allow faster more efficient repairs. When utilized, these should allow production to return to the wind farm more quickly together with reducing risk from an insurance perspective.



### Steve Fernie (session chair)

Strategy & Policy Director  
Global Underwater Hub



### Stefan Köpke

Senior Underwriter Engineering  
Swiss Reinsurance Company Limited



### Andy Ross

Senior Subsea Broker  
Clarksons Offshore & Renewables



### Dale McDonald

Operations Manager  
N-Sea



### Chris Williams

Business Development Manager  
Kraken Robotics



### Pat Oakley

Director  
PFISTERER / Power CSL



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## Session three – Integrity monitoring and management

Integrity management and monitoring of the cable system allows for a greater picture of the cable's health to be developed. This allows for advanced warning of potential failures, meaning planned and remedial action can be carried out as opposed to emergency response for complete failure.

There are a number of options available including physical monitors within the cable system and digital twin technology. When utilised and supported by appropriate guidance these can play a major role in cable reliability and response strategies.



### Alex MacPhie (session chair)

Chair of GUH's UK Subsea Cable Systems Forum

Global Underwater Hub



### Joe Hulm

Senior Underwriter - Power

Zurich Commercial Insurance



### Andy Smerdon

Managing Director

Aquatec



### Andy Lloyd

Business Development Manager, Renewables

Proserv



### Charles Reith

Operations Director and Digital Transition Programme Manager

SeaFlo Consultancy Limited



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## Workshop sessions

The afternoon workshop aims to foster collaboration and discussion, providing a platform for delegates to contribute to the debate on this important industry topic, sharing knowledge, ideas and experiences.

Building on the themes explored during the morning sessions, delegates will discuss how industry can collectively increase the reliability of subsea cables, enhance industry standards, minimise downtime, reduce risk and cost, and improve insurability.

The conference and workshop aims to increase subsea cable reliability and drive technological advancements that will help support the growth of offshore wind and marine renewable energy projects around the world. In addition, the outcomes will contribute to developing industry-wide standards that enhance the quality and reliability of subsea cables.

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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



### Adam Reed

Global Leader - Offshore Renewables  
& Upstream Energy

Allianz Commercial

Adam Reed has worked in the insurance industry for 20 years following his graduation from the University of Exeter.

He has held various positions at both broking and underwriting companies, including Marsh, AXA-XL, and Allianz Commercial, one of the world's largest financial services companies, where he is currently the Global Head of Offshore Renewables and Upstream Energy.

In this role he is responsible for Allianz's worldwide underwriting portfolio of Offshore risks, which includes oil and gas, subsea power cable, and offshore wind and solar assets in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, including leadership positions on a number of the world's largest platforms, vessels, cables and windfarms both currently operating and under construction.

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## Speaker biographies



### Laura Watson

Energy Transition Risk Consulting Lead  
AXA XL Insurance

Laura leads the Energy Transition Risk Consulting team at AXA XL, where she provides technical expertise and guidance to underwriters on energy transition projects

With over 20 years of experience in the energy sector, she is a chartered Mechanical Engineer who has worked across diverse areas including thermal power plants, underground gas storage, and renewable energy developments such as onshore and offshore wind, as well as wave and tidal projects.

Before joining AXA XL, Laura worked in engineering consultancy, delivering energy transition projects for a broad spectrum of developers and utility clients.

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## Speaker biographies



### Ross Piercey

Product Manager - Cables  
James Fisher Renewables

Ross has over 14 years' experience working in the offshore wind sector, supporting subsea cable installation and repair.

As the market matures the service offering has grown to include fault response (fault finding and repair), Ross heads up this service offering in James Fisher Renewables, which delivered over 20 repairs on terminations and cable in the first four months of 2025.

Ross has been involved in bringing to market a new concept on cable fault readiness, response and repair. In addition, his role involves supporting customers using data to drive decision making, by leveraging good asset management with cable monitoring solutions to build stakeholders' confidence.

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## Speaker biographies



### Rameeza Duggal

Senior Analyst - Subsea Power Cables  
and Substations

TGS 4C Offshore

Rameeza is a specialist in offshore wind market analysis, with over five years' experience in the renewable energy sector. She currently works as Senior Analyst – Subsea Power Cables and Substations at TGS 4C Offshore, where she focuses on critical elements of the offshore wind value chain, including subsea cables, grid infrastructure, interconnectors, turbines, and associated vessels.

Since 2020, Rameeza has led the company's subsea power cables and substations market intelligence, producing detailed supply and demand analyses, forecasting demand for key components, and identifying potential market shortfalls. She works closely with industry stakeholders, delivering actionable insights to inform investment decisions and shape market strategies.

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## Speaker biographies



### Darren Moore

Principal Engineer  
BPP Tech

Darren is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and has worked in the offshore industry for over 20 years primarily in the fields of flexible oil and gas pipelines and subsea power cables.

His work at BPP is associated with providing specialist engineering and support services for the design, manufacture, installation and operation of subsea cables. Darren also provides engineering risk quantification and mitigation, root cause analysis, failure mode investigation and forensic examination of subsea cables and associated components. This work has been carried out on behalf of BPP's clients including wind farm developers, operators, insurance underwriters, loss adjusters and legal companies.



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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



### Stefan Köpke

Senior Underwriter Engineering  
Swiss Reinsurance Company Limited

Stefan is a Senior Underwriter based in Zurich working for Swiss Re. He brings 14 years of Underwriting experience in the Technical Lines (Onshore CAR/EAR, Renewables, Offshore Wind, OFTOs and Interconnectors).

Before working for Swiss RE he held underwriting positions at Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty, Zurich Insurance and AIG. Stefan holds an Insurance Management degree (BA) from DHBW Stuttgart/Germany.

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## Speaker biographies



### Andy Ross

Senior Subsea Broker

Clarksons Offshore & Renewables

Andy Ross is a Senior Subsea Broker at Clarksons Offshore and Renewables, bringing over 20 years of specialised expertise in the offshore shipping sector, latterly focusing on the offshore cable repair market.

Based out of Aberdeen, he supports a range of major energy operators, cable owners, and service providers on vessel chartering, contract structuring, market intelligence, and strategic tendering.

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## Speaker biographies



### Dale McDonald

Operations Manager  
N-Sea

Dale McDonald is a successful Operations Manager with a proven track record in the renewable energy sector, experienced in delivering solutions in complex, fast-paced projects and assisting with the development and management of long-term frameworks. He is an innovative team player, with a “can do” attitude.

Over the course of his career Dale has an established track record in building successful multi discipline project teams within the utility and offshore wind sectors. His involvement in many fast-paced projects has given him the opportunity to experience a vast range of operational and construction activities within offshore wind.

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## Speaker biographies



### Chris Williams

Business Development Manager  
Kraken Robotics

Having completed a Marine Geoscience BSc and Applied Marine Geoscience MSc, Chris joined the subsea industry in 2019 as a Geophysicist. Working with cutting edge geophysical sensors, he has supported numerous marine surveys ranging from site investigation, UXO and post-construction cable inspections.

Joining Kraken Robotics in 2021, he specialised in the acquisition of sub-seabed 3D acoustic data to aid in the installation and operations of cables. Chris now works in the commercial department as Business Development Manager, supporting clients with survey design and execution.

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## Speaker biographies



### Pat Oakley

Director

PFISTERER / Power CSL

Pat Oakley was a founding director of Power CSL a UK based manufacturer of field and repair joint systems for subsea power cables. Power CSL was acquired by PFISTERER Holdings in April 2025 and now operates as a subsidiary within the PFISTERER Group.

Prior to establishing Power CSL, he held board positions in major cable, cable accessory and compound manufacturing companies. Pat has over 35 years' experience in the cable industry and has worked in technical, commercial, operational and general management roles. He has been actively involved in the offshore wind sector from its early days.

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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



### Joe Hulm

Senior Underwriter - Power  
Zurich Commercial Insurance

A Chartered Marine Technologist, Joe has over 16 years of full-time experience in power generation and transmission, including eight years in project development followed by eight years in risk and insurance.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology and is working towards the Advanced Diploma in Insurance (ACII).

Joe joined Zurich in Dubai in May 2025, to build the power book across the Middle East, Africa and Eurasia. A past speaker at the inaugural subsea cable insurance event, he looks forward to reconnecting with industry colleagues.

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## Speaker biographies



### Andy Smerdon

Managing Director  
Aquatec

Andy Smerdon is the founder of Basingstoke-based Aquatec Group, an award-winning technology company developing solutions to monitor and protect underwater assets.

He is an electronic engineering graduate of Birmingham University, in the United Kingdom, and continues to work on technical development of the company's subsea acoustic and optical sensing, communication and data-logging systems. Andy is currently studying for a part-time engineering PhD at the University of Aberdeen. When not at his desk, he can be found training and competing in masters track and field athletics.

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## Speaker biographies



### Andy Lloyd

Business Development Manager, Renewables  
Proserv

Andy joined the subsea industry 28 years ago as a pipeline engineer installing oil and gas pipelines in the North Sea, Asia, and Gulf of Mexico.

In 1999 he joined Global Marine Systems Ltd. (GMSL), the world's largest independent subsea cable installation and maintenance contractor. Andy held numerous positions whilst at GMSL including the PM for the first commercial scale windfarms in both the UK and Europe. He also managed their installation business globally. In 2015 Andy was tasked by GMSL to create a subsea power cable repair business. This business was named Complete Cable Care and by the time Andy left GMSL it was Europe largest power cable maintenance business.

Andy set up his own consultancy business in 2022 and has clients in the UK, Europe, USA, Asia, and Australia. He recently joined Proserv in a business development role to continue the growth of ECG™ (Electro Cable Guard) and brings with him the knowledge and experience gained over the 28 years he has been in the subsea industry.

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## Speaker biographies



### Charles Reith

Operations Director & Digital  
Transition Programme Manager

SeaFlo Consultancy Limited

Charles Reith is the Founder and Operations Director of SeaFlo Consultancy Limited, which provides a range of subsea and marine services. A graduate engineer with a marine engineering background, he has over 40 years of experience in subsea engineering and marine asset and integrity management.

He has worked with major E&P operators and subsea companies around the world, and his experience covers risk and controls, contracting strategy analysis, management of change, digital tech tools and the design of subsea umbilical projects. An advocate of new technologies, Charles is champions the use of digital twin technology.

Charles holds an MSc in Project Management from University of Aberdeen and is a member of the Association for Project Management (MAPM) and IMarEST.

# Future events from Global Underwater Hub

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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](http://www.globalunderwaterhub.com), where you can also sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

## Cables 2025

Wednesday, 24 September | **Blyth**

Global Underwater Hub's annual Cables conference, supported by RenewableUK, returns for its 2025 edition in September and will once again drive discussion on a core aspect of offshore renewable energy development and in building energy security worldwide.




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## Unexploded Ordnance: Mitigation in the Marine Environment

Tuesday, 07 October | **Blyth**

This brand new conference is focused on the critical area of unexploded ordnance in the marine environment. It will explore current practices to raise awareness and identify improvement areas for data collection, knowledge sharing mechanisms and the prioritisation of environmentally sustainable methods of disposal.




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## Umbilicals Conference 2025

Tuesday, 11 November | **Westhill, Aberdeen**

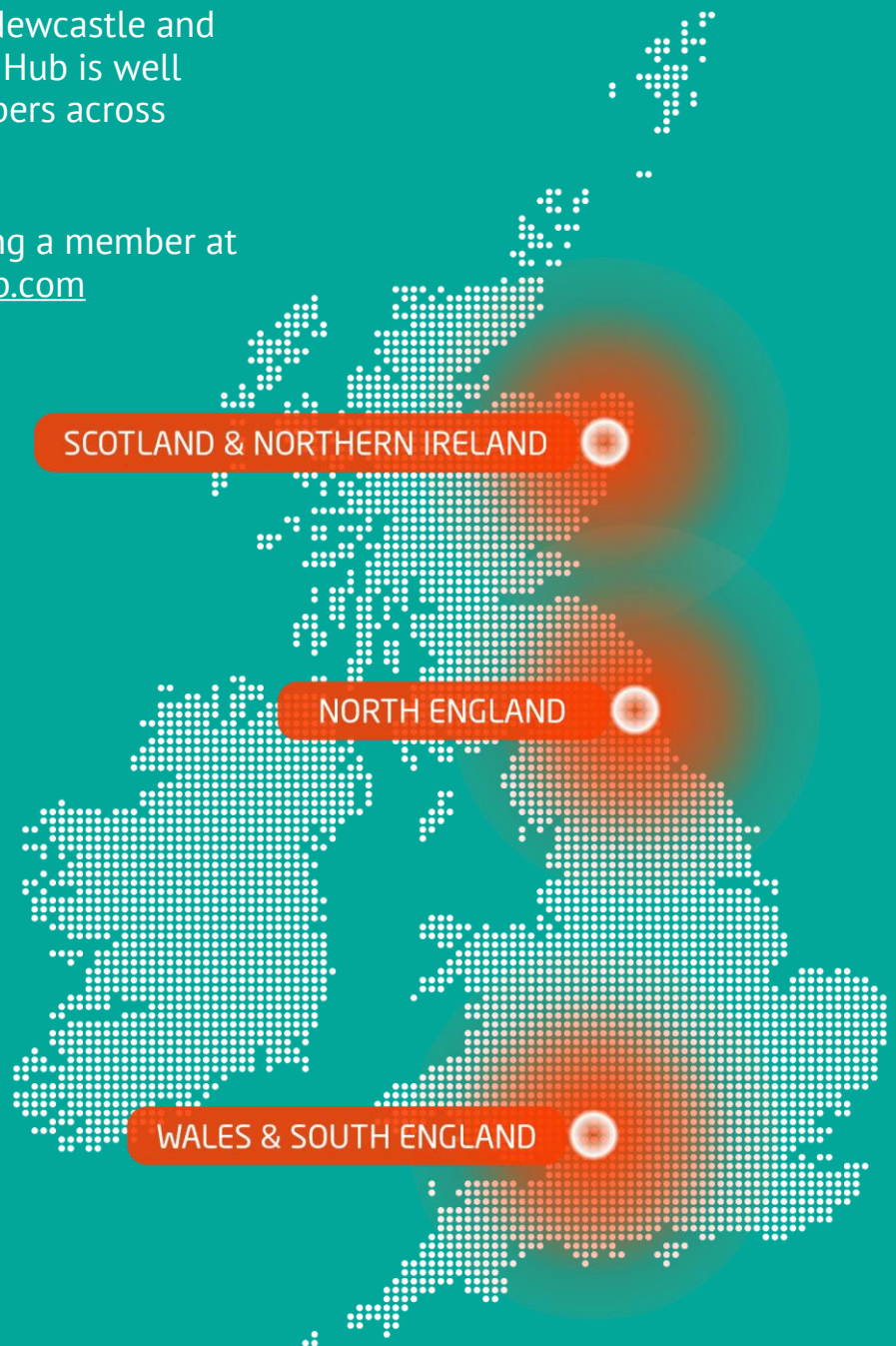
Global Underwater Hub and the Umbilical Manufacturers' Federation will bring together a range of stakeholders with an interest in the design, manufacture, installation and operation of subsea umbilicals for the annual Umbilicals Conference.



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](http://www.globalunderwaterhub.com)



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