

Global Underwater Hub

HEADLINE SPONSOR

AquaTerra

Splash Zone Conference 2026

Thursday, 23 April 2026

The Chester Hotel, Aberdeen

GUH



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.

Splash Zone Conference

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About the Conference

The splash zone, or air/sea interface as it is more technically termed, poses many challenges for offshore infrastructure.

For asset owners, critical items of equipment such as vessel hulls, jacket members, drilling conductors, production risers and caissons have varying integrity risk profiles and are managed by different functions which may mean some aspects are overlooked. Assets are often unique, increasing complexity for owners to maintain integrity through inspection and maintenance campaigns or in the worst case to rectify damage.

Sponsored by [AquaTerra](#), the **Splash Zone Conference** will bring together key industry stakeholders in a format designed to share experiences on the challenges encountered, new methods / technologies being deployed and identify future needs.

Conference sessions will cover:

Session 1: Owner / Operator Challenges

Session 2: Inspection & Maintenance

Session 3: Interventions & Repair

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AquaTerra

Founded in 2003, AquaTerra has grown from a rope access specialist into a trusted multi-discipline partner, delivering construction, maintenance, and inspection services in some of the world's most challenging environments.

Headquartered in Kintore, Aberdeen, with a base in Guyana and operational reach across the UK and internationally, the company supports the global energy sector with reliable expertise wherever it is needed.

AquaTerra operates across sectors including brownfield support, decommissioning, marine, drilling and renewables. Its services cover project management and engineering, multi-discipline construction, integrity and NDT, access solutions, rigging and lifting, as well as hazardous area entry and rescue.

Alongside its services, AquaTerra has developed a distinctive suite of integrity-driven products including AquaShim[®], AquaCLAM[®], QuikDeck[®], Veritas, and C-Cure[®] designed to extend asset life, enhance safety, and improve efficiency.

By combining technical expertise, innovative products, and adaptable multi-skilled teams, AquaTerra consistently delivers proven results on complex, high-profile projects worldwide.

www.aquaterra.co.uk

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Conference Programme*

08:30 – 09:30	Registration, coffee and networking
09:30 – 09:50	Welcome speeches Graham Whitehead, GUH Stephen Taylor, AquaTerra
09:50 – 10:00	Introduction from our chair Janette Paterson, Wood
10:00 – 11:00	Session 1 - Operator Challenges Speakers include: Dean Dickson, Ithaca Energy Craig Donaldson, bp Ciaran Reid, NEO NEXT+
11:00 – 11:40	Coffee & networking
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2 - Inspection & Maintenance Speakers include: Andy Smerdon, Aquatec Group Mike Killeen, Mako Offshore Brea Stephenson, AISUS Graham Ellis, ROVMONIX
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & networking
13:40 – 15:15	Session 3 - Interventions & Repair Speakers include: Stephen Taylor, AquaTerra, Bert Schjetne, OceanTech Innovation AS Stuart Lawson, THREE60 Energy, Innovair and Oil States
15:15 – 15:20	Closing comments
15:20 – 16:00	Networking & close

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

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Confirmed speakers

Delegates attending the **Splash Zone Conference** on **Thursday, 23 April** will hear from representatives of the following organisations.



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Speaker biographies



Andy Smerdon

Chairman

Aquatec Group

Andy Smerdon is a multi-disciplinary Chartered Engineer and entrepreneur with four decades of hands-on experience in the design, development, and application of subsea instrumentation.

AQUAT  **C**

He founded Aquatec in 1990 to advance underwater measurement and communication technologies and today serves as Chair of Aquatec Group and its specialist subsidiary, Tecprime Technology Limited.

A passionate innovator with multiple granted or pending patents, he is currently pursuing a part-time PhD in Engineering at the University of Aberdeen.

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Speaker biographies



Bernt Schjetne

Managing Director

OceanTech Innovation AS

Bernt Schjetne is leading OceanTech Innovation, which has been working with robotic operations in the splash-zone over the last 20 years.



Bernt is one of the founders and have almost 40 years of offshore oil & gas experience in several companies.

During the last decades, ha has been one important instigator for using new technology to solve the offshore challenges with work and inspections in the challenging splash-zone. Game-changing technology has been developed to reduce HSE risk and emissions.

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Speaker biographies



Brea Stephenson

Business Development Manager

AISUS

Brea Stephenson is a Business Development Manager at AISUS, an Aberdeen-based company specialising in remote inspection technology. With experience across the oil and gas sector, he plays a key role in expanding AISUS' presence throughout the wider energy industry.



Working closely with operators and engineering teams, Brea supports the delivery of advanced non-destructive testing (NDT) solutions, particularly within challenging areas such as the splash zone.

AISUS continues to advance the use of AI in defect detection and predictive modelling, providing high-quality data intelligence that enables operators to make faster and informed decisions.

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Speaker biographies



Dean Dickson

Lead Marine Integrity Engineer
Ithaca Energy

Dean Dickson is a structural and marine integrity engineer with 15 years' experience in the oil and gas industry.

ITHACA
ENERGY

His background spans structural engineering, vessel superintendency, and marine and hull integrity management across offshore assets. He has extensive experience overseeing hull and turret integrity on late life assets.

His work focuses on corrosion management, structural reliability, and risk based integrity strategies to enable safe life extension and continued operations.

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Speaker biographies



Mike Killeen

Managing Director
Mako Offshore Ltd.

Michael (“Mike”) Killeen is a British offshore engineering entrepreneur and director of Mako Offshore Ltd, a Scotland-based company providing inspection, ROV tooling, and integrity solutions to the energy sector.

He co-founded the business in 2019 and serves as a principal shareholder and Managing Director, helping guide its technical and business development.

He is the inventor of multiple patented offshore and subsea engineering technologies, reflecting a focus on practical, cost-effective inspection solutions.

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Speaker biographies



Stuart Brown

Technical advisor

Rovmonix

Bsc Engineering Aberdeen Uni, Design Engineer for Baker oil tools, Well engineer in many forms onshore and offshore including DSV and Technology promoter within Shell.

ROVMONIX 

Currently working with Rovmonix developing and promoting this marine growth removal tool in its many forms.

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.

Subsea Cable Insurance Conference & Workshop 2026

Wednesday, 20 May 2026 | **Hilton Canary Wharf, London**

Returning for its fourth edition, the conference will once again convene representatives from across the subsea cabling, offshore energy and insurance sectors. Topics expected to be discussed include: failure modes – physical and electrical; interventions; monitoring; and insurance.



Underwater Robotics Conference 2026

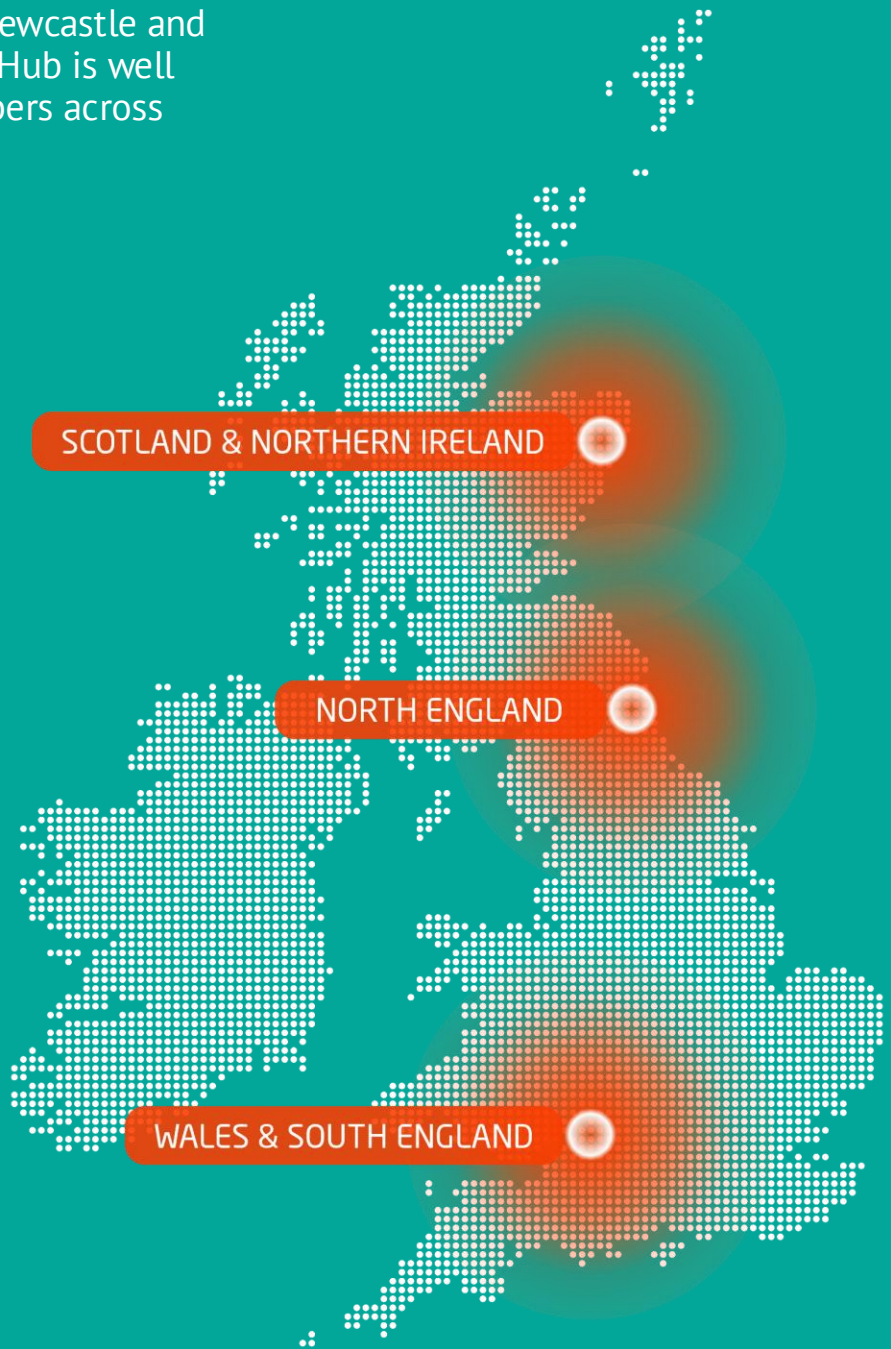
Tuesday, 30 June 2026 | **Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh**

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.



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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www.globalunderwaterhub.com



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