13:30 Registration/Networking

14:00 Welcome and Introductions

Neil Gordon, Subsea UK

Neil initially studied business in Aberdeen then trained as a commercial diver spending eight years carrying out numerous diving assignments in the UK and Norwegian waters involving new construction projects, pipeline surveys, welding and inspection. He has over 25 years’ management experience in director and business development roles, combined with over 15 years in the subsea industry.

Prior to joining Subsea UK, he spent four years managing the National Hyperbaric Centre which included project-managing saturation diving operations and hyperbaric weld trials. He more recently developed the subsea safety training and consultancy aspect of the business, where he regularly lectured to subsea engineers and delivered a range of training courses both in the UK and overseas.

He has experience working in India, Middle-east, Africa and Brazil and has worked with the Oil and Gas Producers diving operations sub-committee on client representative training and competency for subsea projects. He was also an active member of the IMCA diving safety, medical, technical and training committee.

Bill Cattanach, Oil and Gas Authority

Bill has been involved in the promotion of Oil and Gas expertise and the UK supply chain for nearly 20 years and has extensive knowledge across the sector. During this time he administered and actively participated on the Government/Industry forum PILOT where many of the enabling initiatives for the sector were developed. Currently Bill is Head of Supply Chain at the recently established Oil & Gas Authority where he is tasked with promoting and growing a competitive and competent service sector which can compete on a global basis and win significant value for the UK economy.

Bill’s role includes working with Oil Operators and Supply chain companies as well as other stakeholders and public bodies including: BEIS, Dept. for International Trade and Scottish Enterprise to successful deliver MER UK. Bill maintains strong links with sectorial and regional trade associations and as part of this participates on the board of EEEGR, Subsea UK, NOF Energy and Decom North Sea.

Bill is a chartered surveyor and joined the Energy Department 20 ago after working in the Scottish Executive’s Rural Affairs Department. His efforts in promoting the Oil and Gas Supply chain were recognised in 2015 when he was awarded an OBE.
Sylvia Buchan, Oil and Gas Authority

Sylvia is the Supply Chain manager within the Oil and Gas Authority’s People maximise prosperity from the entire value chain of Oil & Gas from new projects through to decommissioning and is responsible for developing and setting up initiatives to provide more market visibility to the supply chain.

Sylvia has developed a wide network of contacts through Government/Industry engagement, including Sectoral and Regional trade associations, which is essential for fostering collaboration between companies and more widely within the sector. Prior to her OGA role she was a manager in the DECC Pilot and Industry development team and was responsible for Ministerial briefings and speeches working closely with Energy Ministers.

14:15 Hybrid AUVs (Autonomous Underwater Vehicles) in Survey and Inspection

Modus is a specialist global provider of modular subsea vehicles and managed services for inspection, intervention, trenching, survey and construction support.

Delivering life-of-field support to the energy, telecommunications, mining, defence and scientific research sectors and leading our services into supporting the blue economy. Modus operates to the highest standards of safety, diligence and environmental awareness. The company employs its expertise in resource management, operational management and an unrivalled range of subsea vehicles offering best-in-class equipment, best people and best practice.

In 2012 Modus identified the technology trend towards hybrid AUVs and teamed up with Saab Dynamics to further develop its pioneering Sabertooth system. Following three years of joint technology development, Modus placed a contract for its first vehicle in 2015. HAUV1 was delivered in 2016, making Modus the first company in the world to bring a hybrid AUV capability to the open commercial market. 10 months of intensive software tuning, sensor integration and trialling in the Saab testing facility in Sweden followed, after which, Modus was awarded its first contract for HAUV1 by Fugro for Woodside Australia, to perform a 250km pipeline survey and inspection.

During our presentation, Modus will discuss our approach to the application of Hybrid AUVs and the significant benefits.

Having spent the last 6 years in the offshore renewable energy industry, I have created bespoke sales and business development strategies in line with the changing industry trends to ensure key and targeted traction. Spending a large amount of time developing a robust network through multiple tiers of the supply, development and value chain has provided me with proficient key account management capability.
This combined with strategic value propositions has led to a year on year results working directly with offshore energy developers, operators and offshore transmission owners. Progressive thinking, flexibility and a hunger to succeed have been essential in order to mature to my current standing.

With natural interpersonal skills I have the ability to build close relationships at all levels of business. I lead by example in autonomous or team working practices to achieve high level objectives and targets both on a corporate and strategic level. Commercially astute whilst practicing sound judgment, I have an impressive track record of building international markets and motivating sales and commercial teams to drive increased value and maximize revenues through innovative solution and insight sales. This has led me to become skilled in the management and specialised functions of global business development, sales and commercial tasks.

14:30  New Technology: On Spec, On Budget and In Time

The Osbit team has been active in offshore O&G and seabed technology for 40 years, pioneering effective new turn-key systems delivered remarkably quickly. We have core strengths in well intervention, seabed trenching, handling of large loads, cable lay and access systems. We also supply test equipment for offshore related components. We have a brilliant team of professional engineers and provide excellent Osbit has a wide-ranging global customer base and is building a profitable and sustainable business where all participants benefit from our success. Our aim is to fully understand the often-complex customer requirements, develop cost-effective solutions and work closely with our customers to help them to realise their ambitions.

Osbit is based in NE England and is able to utilise the considerable engineering and manufacturing resources that are available in this region. We have a quayside facility at The Port of Blyth where we can assemble systems, and we also work on the Tyne and the Tees providing flexibility to utilise the most appropriate skills and facilities as required.

In 2010 Tony founded Osbit Ltd, which in keeping with all of the businesses he has been involved with, is owned and run by engineers. He was joined by two colleagues who had worked at SMD and Pearson Engineering and, subsequently a colleague from EB to complete a quartet of owner directors. The business also operates an EMI scheme where 20 percent of the value of Osbit is allocated to its staff.

Tony is also chairman and a shareholder in a North East-based engineering business established in 2015, OpenWorks Engineering (OWE). Another example of a business that has evolved out of the North East’s rich pool of highly talented entrepreneurial engineers, OWE has developed new technology to counter threats from unauthorised drones becoming an international market leader after only 18 months.
14:45  **Process Optimisation & Automation Tools in the O&G Industry – Enabling you to do more with less**

Process Optimisation & Automation Tools enables you to do 80% of the engineering before the contract award, it gives you cost certainty at the bid stage and it takes engineering off the critical path when it comes to post-contract award delivery. We’re not just talking marginal gains here, we’re talking ‘order of magnitude’ changes.

Process Optimisation & Automation Tools improve accuracy and creates consistency. When you improve accuracy and you create consistency, you improve efficiency. Improved efficiency means you deliver a better result, in less time for a lower cost; that reduces your lead time and it increases your profit.

Or to put it into real words, Process Optimisation & Automation Tools “lets you do more with less”; we’ll show you how.

Paul graduated in 1987 with a BSc honours degree in Polymer Science & Technology and was awarded the prestigious Lord Hewlett industrial scholarship. Paul then seconded into the research & development facility of Borg Warner Chemicals Europe in The Netherlands where he majored on the structure-to-property relationship and the fracture behaviour of engineering polymers.

Paul founded PDL in the year 2000. He has since grown the company into being one of the most trusted and respected independent engineering consultancies operating across 6 safety critical industries in 3 global regions. He has been instrumental in positioning PDL as ‘The Engineering Analysis Experts’ and he’s played a pivotal role in deploying their game-changing ‘Process Optimisation & Automation Tools’ service offering to their major clients in the oil & gas industry.

15:00  **Innovation in Subsea Protection for the Global Offshore Energy Markets**

In order to develop globally competitive supply chains, companies are having to innovate in order to stay ahead of the game. In this short talk Tekmar Group plc will share their approach for remaining a global leader in the sector.

James has 10 years’ experience as an executive manager and is one of the first and founding employees of Tekmar Energy. In 2009, James became Operations Director and led the business through substantial growth. He then subsequently led the management buy-out of Tekmar Energy in September 2011 with Elysian and Opera Finance and, consequently, became Chief Executive Officer. He is also a committee member of Subsea North East and Chairman of Energi Coast. Energi Coast is the representative group for the North East of England’s offshore renewables sector.
Wilton Universal Group

Operating from a 54-acre site at our Port Clarence Offshore Base by the River Tees in Middlesbrough, Wilton Universal Group has gained an enviable reputation of successfully delivering large complicated fabrication, blasting and coating projects to various business streams globally for the past 25 years.

Utilising safety and quality as a pre-requisite, coupling this with a can-do attitude using qualified and experienced personnel and working in partnership with clients creates a good working relationship which ultimately satisfies our customers goals.

Wilton organises its portfolio into five specific business streams made up of:

- Subsea hardware
- Renewables
- Topsides
- Marine Equipment
- Decommissioning

It delivers specialist scopes such as:

- Subsea Structures, Manifolds, Towheads and Mid-water Arch Systems
- Onshore and Offshore Umbilical and Pipe Handling Equipment
- Decommissioning Heavy Lift and Transportation Frames
- Topsides equipment ranging from Modules, Deck Sub-assemblies, Flare Booms, Link Bridges, Helideck Structures, Module Extension Support Structures and Load Out Grillages
- Transition Pieces weighing 240 tons, linking the foundations of offshore wind turbines with the towers

These scopes are supported by highly experienced QHSE, Technical, Operational and Project Management teams.

Wilton’s quayside facilities incorporate an extensive fabrication capability consisting of four large 2500 sqm construction halls supported by a profiling and preparation shop, dedicated and segregated clean pipework fabrication shops and extensive storage facilities.

Based on the same site, the company’s turnkey fabrication facilities are further enhanced by the presence of its sister company Universal Coatings and Services Ltd, which has one of the largest blast and paint facilities in the UK. The product offering extends to Norsok Wet Coat Applied Aystems, Thermally Sprayed Aluminium and Passive Fire Protection systems.
15:30  An Overview of the Benbecula Group

The Benbecula Group was formed to enable a select group of companies to integrate their specific industry skills and individual strengths to become trusted, specialist partners of choice through an organic and acquisitive growth plan. The group is recognised by service quality and measured by on-time delivery. A group of engineered solutions providers with a global reach. We provide an inclusive design, supply, commissioning and service package to a wide variety of industries including marine, oil and gas, renewables, chemical, food and pharmaceutical.

Alasdair MacDonald is CEO of the Benbecula Group of companies and Chairman of Tekmar Group. He was previously CEO of Wellstream International, MD of Duco Umbilicals and General Manager Technip UK.

15:45  Coffee Break and Networking

16:15  John Marsden, Commercial Director, Royal IHC

Royal IHC Limited is a subsidiary of Dutch-based engineering company Royal IHC. Based in the North East of England, Royal IHC Limited design, manufacture and supply bespoke offshore systems, including pipe and cablelay equipment, subsea trenching equipment, subsea trenching machines and complete turnkey, integrated ship systems. Royal IHC Limited offer a full design and build solution from concept development, product delivery and life cycle support, including rental assets. Royal IHC Limited supply products globally across numerous different markets including Oil and Gas, Renewables, Power Transmission and Telecoms.

Royal IHC Limited design, engineer, fabricate, and maintain extremely large steel structures in a region and country where popular belief is that this type of industry is dead. In order to be successful in an industry where cost base is important we have had to innovate and build locally.

Royal IHC provide the IP, the engineering, and the know-how to a growing international market across the globe. We collaborate internationally and build regional hubs which provides us market advantage. In order to support this across the time zones we need technology and systems that are state of the art. But despite this, none of our achievement would be possible without the skilled engineers in our region, 320 staff and contractors are employed in the UK, all in the North East of England. They are split between the design offices at Stocksfield and Newcastle and the assembly facility at Blyth.
Royal IHC Limited are passionate about keeping the industry alive here in the North East. We are committed to inspiring young people to work in the industry. 2014 saw the inception of our offshore base at Port of Blyth, which is now rapidly becoming a lead region in the UK for the research & development, design and manufacturing of offshore energy projects. We continue to support the Port Training Services and have recently donated a high value piece of equipment to them in preparation for their new engineering course starting in September. This is creating unique opportunities for young people in the heart of Blyth.

Our presentation will outline Royal IHC’s role within our region and discuss the projects and skills involved in keeping the industry thriving here in the North East of England.

16:30 Emergency Pipeline Repair Systems

Services worldwide, often bespoke to client requirements & designed to suit all pipeline diameters & pressure classes

Subsea Innovation’s pipeline repair systems comprise of hardware solutions which attach to subsea pipelines as a means of repair or partial replacement.

We offer a service to provide engineering services and consultancy to help determine the optimum equipment and techniques. We also can provide engineers and technicians to go off shore with the equipment should it be called into use.

The unique design of our pipeline repair systems (PRS) differentiates Subsea Innovation from its competitors, allowing us to provide highly adaptable and cost-effective solutions. The modular design of our system offered by our SISeal® and SIGrip® systems provide flexibility during installation, offering structural and non-structural options to suit the client’s individual repair needs. This adaptability is particularly suitable in the provision and maintenance of PRS clubs, where a spread of equipment is required to provide contingency against varying degrees of pipeline damage across a range of pipelines.

All of Subsea Innovation’s pipeline repair equipment are available for installation by diver or ROV and are sized to suit all pipeline diameters & pressure classes.

The structural collet packs, seal sets, anti-extrusion system and bolt tensioning system are a common design on all our systems. This includes the type approved structural clamps, the connectors and our hot tap Ts.

Dave Thompson
Managing Director
Subsea Innovation
16:45  Advantages of Integrated Technology on Equipment

There are several benefits of engineers being able to access video, pictures and data about offshore construction for troubleshooting, improvement of BIM record keeping.

Through interfacing with iHub, Drone Survey & Inspection and Texo Equipment & laser survey; several opportunities for technology integration with new or existing equipment are being developed. These improvements are being incorporated into Texo’s upcoming equipment designs but also as advancement packages for existing equipment to increase data collection for the whole project.

17:00  Tyne Subsea: Centre of Excellence for Deep Water Pressure Testing and Research

Tyne Subsea is a joint venture between North East engineering company, British Engines, and leading subsea research university, Newcastle University. This union pioneers the link between industry and academia, combining a long heritage in subsea engineering and pressure testing, with access to the knowledge and research from a leading subsea research institution.

The provision of pressure testing services is offered through one of nine hyperbaric chambers located onsite in addition to two environmental bays in order to fulfil a remit of supporting equipment manufacturers’ requirements at industry specific standards for pressure testing through the validation of fit-for-purpose products that can fully function under high pressures within extreme environments.

Capabilities extend from conventional testing through to the ability to simulate 15,000m water depths and at temperatures ranging from -160°C to +200°C. The end result of a multi-million pound investment is a standalone world-leading facility which includes one of the largest commercially available chambers in Europe, all operated by a highly experienced management team and expert technicians.

Gavin joined British Engines 10 years ago in an initial graduate capacity prior to joining BEL Valves’ sales team. During his time at BEL Valves he held responsibility for a number of international markets, most notably in South America and the Norwegian North Sea, before recently transferring to manage sales and market development as part of the ongoing investment and future growth plans at Tyne Subsea.
Closed Comments

Bruce Heppenstall, BEL Valves and Neil Gordon, Subsea UK

Bruce is the CEO of BEL Valves Limited, the global manufacturer of high integrity subsea and surface valves based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He has worked in the subsea and oil & gas industry since 2012 with is previous role being General Manager for the Wellstream flexible pipeline division of GE Oil & Gas responsible for all global business operations outside of Brazil.

His career before joining the oil and gas industry was spent in the power industry with senior roles including asset management and commercial development of thermal and wind power plants in across the UK, Europe and California. This gave him a good experience of how energy is consumed and how the global energy markets are increasingly interlinked. Before this, Bruce spent his early career in operations and maintenance of power plants, developing a keen interest in how complex highly engineered system are operated and maintained effectively to maximise reliability at optimum cost.

A chartered mechanical and electrical engineer, Bruce has a BEng in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from Aston University and a MBA from Aston Business School.

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