

European Subsea Cables Association Plenary Meeting No. 51

12th September 2018

Hilton Bath City Hotel, Bath, UK

Speaker Biographies

Dr Neil Baines – Managing Director, Avenca Limited



Neil is the Managing Director of Avenca Limited, an independent consultancy set up in 2001 to specialise in the analysis of digital data from ships. Avenca's Marine Accident Data Analysis Suite (MADAS) software is now used by national accident investigation authorities around the world, and Avenca also provide data analysis services to a wide range of companies internationally, including shipping companies, insurers, law firms, consultants, enforcement agencies, and cable companies. Neil was previously Engineering Director with Smiths Industries Aerospace Data Management Systems division, and is a Chartered Engineer, with Doctor's and Bachelor's degrees in engineering with a specialisation in acoustics.

Stephen Wilson – Strategic Business and Development Manager, Soil Machine Dynamics (SMD)



In 2004 Stephen joined, what was then Narec and is now the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult. Over the last 14 years he has been involved in testing, developments and installation services for manufacturers & offshore contractors for offshore wind, wave, tidal and oil and gas companies. Working for such companies as DeepOcean and Matrix Composites & Engineering, Stephen has gain valuable insights and understanding of the changes in the energy markets over this period. Stephen's current role is to identify, assess and

develop new investment & developments for SMD's subsea and hazardous environment remote robotic solutions business. SMD are leaders in the design and manufacture of trenching equipment for power cable protection. With over 45 years of experience, SMD is still innovating to meet with the market needs.

Ian Walker – Business Development Manager, SDH Project Services Ltd



Ian has spent the past 23 years developing the exciting technology of distributed optical fibre sensors, mainly for the oil and gas industry. As one of the founder members of Sensa – the pioneers of Distributed Temperature Sensing for oil and gas – Ian developed the technology implementation into downhole reservoir monitoring before focusing on the pipeline industry. He was key to the integration following Sensa's acquisition by Schlumberger in 2001. In 2008 Ian was part of the team that founded Fotech Solutions. Seizing on the potential of Distributed Acoustic Sensing, Ian has been responsible for some of the first commercial projects of DAS – downhole monitoring, pipeline leak detection and protection of linear assets such as power and comms cables, pipelines, perimeters and railways. Ian joined the team at SDH Project Services earlier in 2017 to expand the company's portfolio and further establish the Monitoring Systems business unit. Ian is a member of the SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers) also one of the Group Leaders of SEAFOM, an oil industry forum focused on the use of optical fibre sensors. He has published a number of patents and was a past winner of the Subsea Innovation Award presented by the Pipeline Industries Guild in UK.

Dr Kevin Black – Technical Director, Partrac Ltd



Kevin is a geological oceanographer with over 13 years industry and 15 years of research experience, principally in the area of coastal sediment transport. He is one of the UK's foremost scientists in coastal and shelf sea oceanography, with extensive field experience and over 40 peer reviewed publications. He is co-founder and owner of Partrac Ltd, a marine survey and consulting firm specialising in oceanographic, environmental and marine geosciences surveys and consultancy, who work with various clients on projects in offshore wind, wave and tidal energy, water industry, oil and gas, aquaculture, ports and harbours and

general marine construction. Kevin's previous field experience spans Chief Scientist roles on deep ocean and shelf sea research cruises, to management, execution and delivery of commercial marine survey operations and geotechnical site investigations. As company Technical Director Kevin heads up the Consultancy division (Newcastle), and he and his team have provided advice and guidance in the areas of EIA, site characterization and assessment, shoreline and coastal processes, foundation – seabed interactions, FEED, and regulatory liaison / scoping / screening. He led a number of commercial studies where the central element was assessment and definition of the metocean and geomarine environment for a range of offshore wind and tidal sites, supported on occasion by scour studies and extreme value analysis. He is the chief editor of the Geological Society Publication 139 Sedimentary Processes in the Intertidal Zone and contributed to a Chapter in the new Cambridge University Press publication Estuarine and Coastal Hydrography and Sediment Transport.

Professor Justin Dix, Head of Geology and Geophysics Research Group, University of Southampton



Justin is the Head of the Geology and Geophysics Research Group, within Ocean and Earth Science, at the University of Southampton. His research focuses on high-resolution geophysical and geological techniques to answer a series of applied research topics including structure seabed interactions. His particular expertise is in the acquisition, processing and analysis of high resolution acoustic data (swath bathymetry and sub-bottom data), including the development and application of the 3D Chirp system for decimetric sub-surface imaging of the top 20 m's of the seabed, and the integration of these with core and geotechnical data to generate 4D ground models. His current principal research focus is substrate controls on the modes and rate of heat dissipation from underwater HV cables. This work focuses on the role of permeability and thermal conductivity on heat dissipation in marine sediments and how this controls the lifetime performance and effective monitoring (via DTS) of HV cables. This also includes the change in these properties in response to the installation (trenching/jetting) process"

Thomas Küpper – Scientific & Technical Policy and Programme Officer, European Commission



Thomas Küpper currently works as a Scientific and Technical Policy Officer in the Unit Investment Opportunities in High Capacity Networks, the broadband unit at the Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) of the European Commission. His responsibilities include island and international connectivity by means of submarine cables. This position combines policy and technical work. He is particularly interested in technical issues including submarine cables, fibre, broadband networks, media conversion and accessibility. Thomas has been working for the Commission for the last 11 years and is based in Brussels and has been managing Research and Innovation projects in converging media previously. Before to joining the Commission, Thomas held a number of positions in the private sector. He worked for two years for Logica Consulting in Amsterdam on mobile workforce and traffic management solutions. Prior to this he worked for 7 years for Ericsson in The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany in consulting, solution- and project management.