



European Subsea Cables Association Plenary Meeting No.61

6th & 7th March 2024

National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Southampton, UK

Meeting Room: Seminar Room

Draft Agenda

Day One (09.00 to 17.00) – Coffee/Tea from 08.30

1. (09.00) Welcome (Chairman)
2. (09.05) Opening Address from Professor Ed Hill CBE
3. (09.15) Logistics and Agree Agenda Secretary
4. (09.45) Mike Clare (National Oceanography Centre) – ‘Towards Net Zero Ocean Science and the Future of Marine Autonomy in Decommissioning’ – Dr Mike Clare and Dr Andrew Gates (NOC)
5. (10.15) Phil Payne (NGET) – ‘Subsea Cables & The Great Grid Upgrade’
6. (10.35) Darren Bray (Jersey Telecom and on behalf of Jersey Government) – ‘The importance of Telco Cables for Jersey/Channel Islands’

(11.00) Coffee break

7. (11.30) Lucy Crooks (Natural England) ‘Nature Considerations for Subsea Cables’
8. (11.50) Brian Rosendahl (Shefa) - ‘Measures of Protecting Shefa Subsea FOC Infrastructures’
9. (12.15) Simon Webster (NEC) - ‘Sensing in subsea cables – state of the art, challenges and opportunities’
10. (12.45) John Wrottesley on behalf of Caroline Brown (OEUK) – ‘OEUK and ESCA - exploring future cross-sectoral cooperation opportunities between Offshore Energy and Subsea Cables’

(13.00) Lunch – (13.30 for shorter tour for those unable to make it on Thursday)

11. (14.00) Rory Shepherdson (UKHO) and John Mitchell (The Crown Estate) ‘COAST Subsurface National Infrastructure Data Discovery Project’
12. (14.30) Peter Barham (The Seabed User and Developer Group) – ‘Net Gain – A New Statutory Obligation’
13. (14.50) ESCA Liaison Officer Reports (John Wrottesley)
- 13.1 ESCA Comms. (Claire Muir)

(15.30) Coffee break

14. (16.00) Jennifer Godwin (The Seabed User and Developer Group) – ‘Principles for Marine Spatial Prioritisation: Space for Nature and the Blue Economy’



15. (16.15) EC Panel Discussion, plus Q&A

EC/All

"Working together in proximity - What are the challenges and opportunities for subsea cables (power and telecoms) being installed near to each other on the seabed?"

- *As demand for seabed space increases, there will be more instances where cables are forced into closer proximity - both offshore and when making landfall.*
 - *What are the technical challenges?*
 - *What are the opportunities to cooperate in a positive way? (Industry guidance, planning and design of routing to keep future cables in mind etc?)*
 - *Understanding the differences between proximity and cable spacing - defined terms?*
- *Can telecoms cables and power cables share the same landings - what are the challenges?*
 - *Cross-sectoral cooperation.*
 - *Risk to assets and cable protection.*
 - *Power safety.*
- *Peterhead case study example - ESCA are supporting discussion to produce industry guideline for future challenging locations.*

(17.00) Close

Day Two (09.30 to 12.30) – Coffee/Tea from 09.00

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| 16. | (09.30) | Maritime Subgroup Report, including Fishing Update (Courtney French) | MSG Co-Chair |
| 17. | (09.50) | Technical and Regulatory Subgroup Report (Alex Riddell) | (obo TRSG Chair) |
| 18. | (10.05) | Renewables and Power Cables Subgroup Report (Chris Lomax) | RPSG Co-Chair |
| 19. | (10.20) | Decommissioning Working Group Update | WG Co-Chairs |
| 20. | (10.30) | Alastair Godfrey (Indeximate) 'An overview of the current capabilities of fibre optic sensing for assessing the health of subsea cables and the state of their environment' | |

(10.45) Coffee break

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| 21. | (11.15) | Executive Committee Review | Chairman/Secretary |
| 21.1 | | ESCA Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elections | |
| 21.2 | | ESCA Financial Review – FY 2023 and 2024 Budget | |
| 22. | (11.45) | ICPC Update | John Wrottesley (obo ICPC General Manager) |
| 23. | (12.00) | UKCLA (Neil Baylis) | UKCLA |
| 23.1 | | Competition Guidance update | |
| 23.2 | | Legal developments of interest to ESCA members | |
| 24. | (12.15) | AOB | |
| 25. | (12.25) | Date and Venue of next meeting | Secretary |

(12.30) Plenary Close



Tour Commencing 13.00 for 60 Minutes

Marine Autonomous Robotics System (MARS) Innovation Centre. The MARS fleet is one of the largest and most advanced in the world, having benefited from a £10 million investment as part of the UK Government's 'Eight Great Technologies' initiative, and £16 million from the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Key to its success are the 45 engineers and technologists that develop, maintain, and operate the vehicles. Attendees will have the chance to see gliders, Autonomous Underwater and Surface Vehicles, testing facilities and meet engineers and scientist using this technology to tackle a range of fundamental research and industry challenges, including ongoing decommissioning studies that aim to reduce carbon emissions through reduced reliance on large sea-going vessels. ([Marine Autonomous Robotic Systems | National Oceanography Centre \(noc.ac.uk\)](#))