

PRESS RELEASE

## **Scottish Support for OCEANS '17 Exhibition**

Scottish Enterprise has confirmed it will exhibit at MTS/IEEE OCEANS'17 Aberdeen. Their stand will include an "International Showcase" area designed to promote Scottish expertise in the area of oceanic engineering and technology.

Throughout the event, the economic development agency will also run a series of technology sessions in parallel with the main conference to highlight Scottish industrial capability in the international context and show how it can be deployed in the oceanic sector.

International sector head for oil and gas at Scottish Enterprise, David Rennie, said, "The OCEANS'17 conference and exhibition in Aberdeen brings together engineers, technologists, marine scientists with the oceanic business sector. As such, it offers the ideal platform to highlight Scotland's world-renowned expertise, create new contacts as well as build on existing ones, to maximise future growth opportunities for Scotland. This event is timely and ties in with our Subsea Engineering Plan published in January."

Professor John Watson, General Chair of OCEANS'17 Aberdeen and Aberdeen University said, "I am delighted that Scottish Enterprise are able to offer this support to the event and look forward to the Industrial Showcase talks with keen interest. This is an ideal opportunity for industry and academics to engage and promote Scottish engineering and technology to delegates and exhibitors from Canada, Japan, the USA as well as Europe and the UK.

Preparations for the 60th MTS/IEEE OCEANS Conference in Aberdeen, Scotland from 19 – 22 June 2017 are well underway. This will be the second time that the MTS, IEEE/OES's flagship conference covering all aspects of ocean science, technology and engineering will be hosted in Aberdeen. The fact that OCEANS is returning to Aberdeen highlights the importance and size of the oceanic industry to the region.

The conference is also supported by Subsea UK, the Gold Patrons, who will play a major role in the conference and exhibition. Other patrons include University of Aberdeen; Robert Gordon University; Aberdeen City Council; VisitAberdeenshire; VisitScotland; and Kongsberg Marine.

The exhibition will run throughout the conference and is open to all delegates as well as exhibition visitors only. Exhibition space is still available – to find out about the stands still available, visit our live floor plan on the conference website at <http://www.oceans17mtsieeeaberdeen.org/>

/ENDS.

PTO for background information.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **The MTS/IEEE Oceans Conferences**

The OCEANS conference is the flagship event of the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society (OES) and the Marine Technology Society (MTS). It features all aspects of oceanic engineering, science and technology. The conference runs twice a year: every autumn (fall) in North America and every spring in the rest of the world. The rest of the world meetings alternate between Europe (in odd years) and Asia/Pacific rim (in even years).

The prestigious OCEANS series of conferences is recognised as the premier forum for the international marine community to meet and discuss topical issues in a format of easy information exchange. OCEANS brings together engineers, scientists, managers and policy makers from all aspects of the oceanic spectrum.

OCEANS features an associated trade exhibition with companies and institutions representing the wide range of activities found in the marine community.

MTS/IEEE OCEANS is returning to Aberdeen in Scotland following the very successful event in 2007. This will be the 60<sup>th</sup> occurrence of the OCEANS meeting.

### **Local Featured Topics**

Local experts are looking forward to engaging with their world class peers on any aspect of the focussed topics below.

***Subsea Engineering and Subsea Operations*** - Subsea technology is vital to offshore production, unlocking harder to reach, deeper reserves and improving the economics of marginal fields. Subsea design, manufacture, and operations are not just limited to the traditional hardware of flowlines, risers, umbilicals, and underwater vehicles. The subsea sector has developed a range of processes, systems, sophisticated tools, and materials, from specialist metals and high-tech underwater electronics, to cameras, sonars and sensors.

***Subsea Optical Sensing, Imaging and Instrumentation*** - The use of optical methodology, instrumentation and photonics devices for imaging, vision and sensing is of increasing importance in understanding our marine environment. Subsea imaging can make an important contribution to the protection and sustainable management of ocean resources and contribute to monitoring the response of marine systems to climate change. Areas of expertise that we are looking for include contributions in holography, Raman spectroscopy, laser induced breakdown spectroscopy, fibre sensing, etc.

***Deployment of Subsea Capabilities in other Sectors*** - Our oceans are a source of health and wealth for millions of people around the world. In addition to producing nutritious food, the oceans and coastal areas provide many socio-economic benefits in terms of employment, recreation and commerce as well as other crucial natural resources. Capabilities in marine science, subsea technology and engineering provide a prime position to exploit such economic value. Areas for transfer of such capability include: deep sea mining; marine renewables, aquaculture, and defence activities.

***Emerging Technologies for IRM*** - There is now a complex array of subsea infrastructure criss-crossing sea beds across the globe. As new subsea pipelines and hardware increases, so too does operational spend and the need to repair and maintain equipment. It is therefore no surprise that inspection, repair and maintenance is now a rapidly growing niche within the subsea industry.

***Fisheries & Aquaculture*** - The world's natural fish stocks are seriously low; it is expected that fish supplied by aquaculture will increase to over 60 per cent of the total by 2030. The prospects for

marine aquatic products are expected to come from sustainable sources in general and organic aquaculture. Growing algae shows significant long-term growth potential for a range of sectors including the health and cosmetic industry, the food and feed processing industry, and the green chemistry and energy industries.

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***Decommissioning and Salvage*** - Covers all aspects of technology, marine science, regulation, and operation leading to the decommission or salvage of man-made objects from the marine environment safely and with due respect for the environment.

***Marine Renewables (offshore wind, wave, and tidal)*** – The EU (in particular the UK) currently has the largest share of offshore wind expenditure and is a growing market presenting exciting new opportunities. The UK has a strong position in ocean renewable energy (wave and tidal), which is still in an early stage of development and has a strong focus on R&D. The key to the future success of ocean energy relies on the rapid development of technological advancements and the successful completion of demonstration projects.

***Unmanned Underwater Vehicles in Defence Applications*** – UUVs have developed dramatically over the last 50 years and now able to be developed to provide greater support to naval maritime operations such as remote sensing, communications relay, mine countermeasures, and anti-submarine warfare.

For more information on the student poster competition, conference, exhibition, patronage opportunities, and attending the event please visit the conference website [www.oceans17mtsieeeeberdeen.org/](http://www.oceans17mtsieeeeberdeen.org/)