GLOBAL SUBSEA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

A new research institute which could help UK companies capitalise on a global subsea market worth a potential GBP40 billion has been launched in Aberdeen (UK). The National Subsea Research Institute (NSRI) will open the door to the fast-track development of a new wave of subsea technology and expertise in which the UK already leads the world.

The institute, which will be based in Aberdeen, was launched by Jim Murphy, Secretary of State for Scotland at Subsea 09.

It has been established by Subsea UK, the industry body, and Aberdeen, Dundee and the Robert Gordon Universities via the Northern Research Partnership in Engineering. The aim is to ensure the UK retains its market-leading position and captures a significant share of the global market worth £25 billion at present and estimated to grow to over GBP40 billion by 2011.

With 40,000 employees in 750 companies contributing GBP4.5 billion to the economy, the UK subsea sector leads the way around the world but industry body, Subsea UK has long been campaigning for a national framework for research, development and implementation of technology that brings together industry, academia and government to make sure the sector remains at the forefront.

NSRI takes advantage of the know-how and innovation of the partner organisations who collectively bring together academia, industry and the supply chain to develop a national strategy that will be aligned with the needs of the industry in the short and long-term both within the UKCS and internationally.

This strategy will co-ordinate and facilitate the delivery of a sustainable UK base in subsea technology and skills that will create long-term opportunities for academia, the industry and the UK economy as well as supporting sustainable exploitation of oil and gas around the world.

NSRI will develop its own research strategy and core strengths in areas of research not presently being addressed by other research establishments. It will also develop strategic relationships with other research and development providers within the UK and overseas.

A not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, NSRI will be chaired by Subsea UK chairman, Bill Edgar.