



Press Announcement

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Project investment tops £12 million... and counting

- **£12 million invested in 21 technology projects in partnership with industry**
 - **Working with 40 members to increase the pace of innovation**
 - **State-of-the-art Innovation Hub nearing completion**
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Just seven months since it opened, The Oil & Gas Technology Centre has approved investment of more than £12 million, in partnership with industry, to accelerate the development of technologies designed to transform the oil and gas industry in the North Sea.

21 Live Projects

In partnership with Infinity Oilfield Services, we're developing a safety solution which could save UK North Sea operators up to £320 million. The device, which includes Kevlar, would contain corroded valve equipment to eliminate the risk of an uncontrolled hydrocarbon release, improving safety performance and potentially extending asset life.

We're supporting Raptor Oil to transform the transmission of downhole drilling data to the surface. The company's acoustic telemetry technology could increase the speed and capacity of data communication helping to drive efficiency, reduce costs and enable better decision-making.

We're working with Interwell P&A and a host of major North Sea operators to field-trial a ground-breaking concept for well abandonment, which could save the industry more than £100 million per year. The wireline-deployed tool, which aims to be deployed without a rig, generates downhole temperatures of up to 3,000 degrees Celsius to melt all well elements and create a permanent, impermeable barrier, without the need to remove any downhole tubulars.

We're helping Apollo and LifeTech provide digital applications for offshore teams, by developing a tablet-based, software solution for integrity management. It delivers integrity data and decision-making across the full lifecycle of an asset, allowing for quicker and more accurate data gathering and reporting, creating a potential 20% efficiency gain.

New Members

New members include major operator, Maersk Oil, global engineering group, Lloyds Register, major service provider, Oceaneering International Services Limited, and subsea technology company, EC-OG.

Our 40 members are now working in partnership on projects to increase the pace of innovation. Our members help shape the Centre's project portfolio and we also co-invest with many non-members on technology projects that support MER UK.



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Opening of Unique Innovation Hub

The construction of our unique Innovation Hub, at our Centre in the heart of Aberdeen, is almost complete. An exciting and engaging environment, the Hub combines state-of-the-art presentation and collaboration technologies to bring innovators together and inspire breakthrough solutions. The Hub will provide a showcase for new technologies, thinking and ideas from other industrial sectors.

More than 100 new ideas

More than 100 technology ideas have been generated through our 'Call for Ideas' competitions in well construction, small pools and asset integrity. With funding of up to £1 million available for the best technologies in each competition, our team is currently working with independent technical experts to assess all submissions and the winners will be announced later this year.

Technology Accelerator Gears Up

Our Technology Accelerator – TechX – is gearing up to help smaller technology developers take their solutions to market. Our goal is to invest in 100 technology companies in the next decade offering expert mentoring, access to facilities and skills, field testing opportunities and funding with no equity or pay back required..

Colette Cohen, Chief Executive of the Oil & Gas Technology Centre said:

“Working with industry, we are delighted to have approved investment of more than £12 million in 21 individual projects since the Centre opened in February 2017. It’s exciting to be working with innovative technology developers who have solutions with the potential to transform the industry.

“Our goal is to create a culture of innovation across the industry and the region, working with companies and universities to accelerate technology deployment. So, we’re delighted to have so many new members on board as their leadership and commitment is essential.”

Part of the Aberdeen City Deal, the Technology Centre received £180 million funding from the UK and Scottish Governments. It is a not-for-profit, research and knowledge company, which aims to unlock the full potential of the UK North Sea, anchor the supply chain in North-East Scotland, and create a culture of innovation that attracts industry and academia to the region.

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Notes to editors

1. Partner quotes

Morten Kelstrup, Managing Director, Maersk Oil UK, said:

“Technology and innovation have always been important to Maersk Oil – from horizontal drilling techniques in the ‘90s to the use of supercomputers and drone technology today – so we are delighted to become a member of the Oil & Gas Technology Centre. We wholeheartedly support its mission to drive the development and use of new technology that will ensure we – the North Sea oil and gas industry - make the most of our resources and set ourselves apart as a region of innovators. We’re participating in the Small Pools and Well Construction solution centres and look forward to getting started.”

Grant Robertson, Regional Asset Integrity Manager at Oceaneering, said:

“As a trusted partner, Oceaneering is committed to supporting the future of the industry by collaborating with the Oil & Gas Technology Centre to solve tomorrow’s life-of-field challenges today. We are Connecting What’s Needed with What’s Next™ to solve asset integrity requirements differently, creatively and smarter. We look forward to supporting innovative technology projects through a truly collaborative effort.”

Jonathan White, Business Development Director, Apollo, said:

“Apollo’s data management tool, KnowHow, has been developed to allow operators to digitally harvest and manage integrity data. We have been working closely with the Oil & Gas Technology Centre to further understand the challenges in overcoming data silos and internal barriers in order to develop a road map for KnowHow development. With investment from the Oil & Gas Technology Centre and associated partners, we can fast track the product development in line with the challenges facing the industry which will allow operators to better manage their assets, delivering efficiency savings of more than 20%.”

Reza Shahrivar, Managing Director of LifeTech Engineering, said:

“About 50% of North Sea assets have passed their original design life. It has always been our aim to create a software solution that more accurately determines the integrity of these assets to allow for safe life extension. The Oil & Gas Technology Centre has created an exceptional opportunity for us to convert our idea into practice.”

Andy MacGill, Engineering Director, Infinity Oilfield Services, said;

“We are delighted to be working in conjunction with the Oil & Gas Technology Centre to design, verify and bring to market our innovative safety device. The final product will address known industry safety challenges. It will focus on safe and cost-effective deployment, containment and safe decommissioning.”

Richard Knox, Managing Director, EC-OG, said:

We have received fantastic support from the Oil & Gas Technology and we have built upon this relationship by becoming a member. We firmly believe that the Centre can help bridge the gap between great innovations and the needs of the oil and gas operators. We’ve had first-hand experience with the support for our Subsea Power Hub and look forward to strengthening this relationship going forward.”



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Alasdair Buchanan, Energy Director of Lloyd's Register, said:

“We are very encouraged and supportive of the gains the Oil & Gas Technology Centre has made with its portfolio of new projects. This highlights the growing need and optimism across the industry to do things better and smarter than before. We are actively involved with the Centre's projects to help accelerate and promote technical competence and innovation, and the role of digitisation which we believe has a crucial part to play in how companies across the oil and gas industry achieve greater efficiencies now and in the future. Clearly, there is a new mindset evolving across the industry – the conversation is no longer ‘should we?’ but ‘we do!’”

Gordon Cowie, CEO, Raptor Oil, said:

“Following a very successful well test deployment of our ground breaking high data rate wireless telemetry system we are now progressing towards additional trials this year and early next year. We welcome the Oil & Gas Technology Centre's support at this crucial stage of our technical and commercial development and are very much looking forward to working with them on the project”.

2. About the Oil & Gas Technology Centre

- The Oil & Gas Technology Centre is a not-for-profit, industry-led, technology research and development organisation based in Aberdeen.
- The Oil & Gas Technology Centre was established in October 2016 with £180 million funding as part of the Aberdeen City Region Deal.
- The Deal is a long-term improvement programme to enhance growth, competitiveness, connectivity, infrastructure, housing and employment into an already successful regional economy.
- The Deal is supported by the Scottish Government, UK Government, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Opportunity North East.
- An additional £174.1 million has to be generated in matched funding from industry, university or others as part of the Centre's long-term funding, which can be both cash and in-kind.