

# Smarter Subsea Handling

Decommissioning and 'The Circular Economy'  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Autonomous Lifting and Handling Systems for Subsea  
Infrastructure Construction Support and Removal

Fraser Dunsmore Pritchard, COO





# Agenda

- Introduction
- Background and Opportunity
- ROVAR variable buoyancy Products & Solutions
- Integrating Decommissioning and Circular Economy
- Key Points & Asks





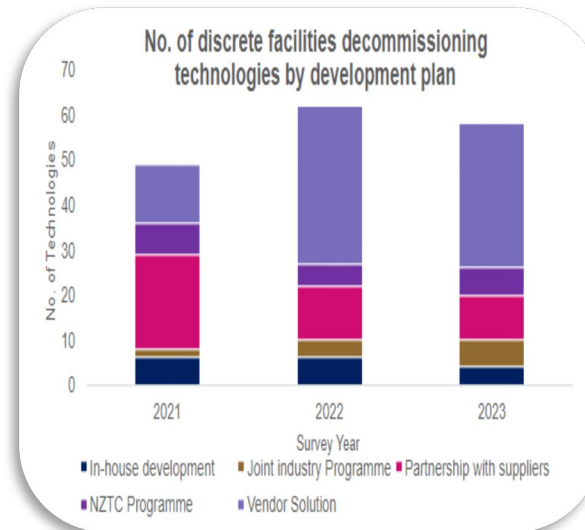
# Decommissioning and the Circular Economy – Background & Opportunities

## International and Regulatory Needs of Decommissioning

- UN Circular Economy embraces diverse means to reduce, recycle and remediate
  - Convert from linear tasks to parallel and circular ones
  - Reduce manufacturing, consumption and use - doing more with less
  - Recycle processes and equipment – paralleling activity, “Swiss army knife”
  - Remediate the environment - minimising carbon and marine damage
- NSTA and OPRED are supporting these principles for decommissioning
  - Industry agreement to cut decom costs from £40 billion to £33.3 billion by 2028
  - £21 billion expected to be spent on decommissioning between 2023 and 2032
  - NSTA expects industry to deploy new, emerging and existing technology
  - Operators to increase participation in technology development and adoption

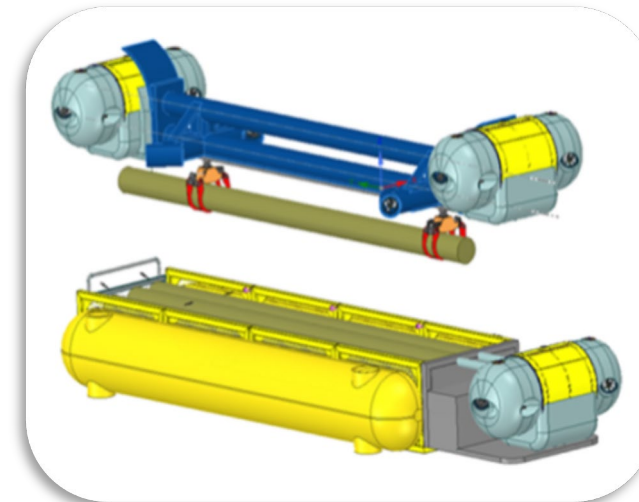
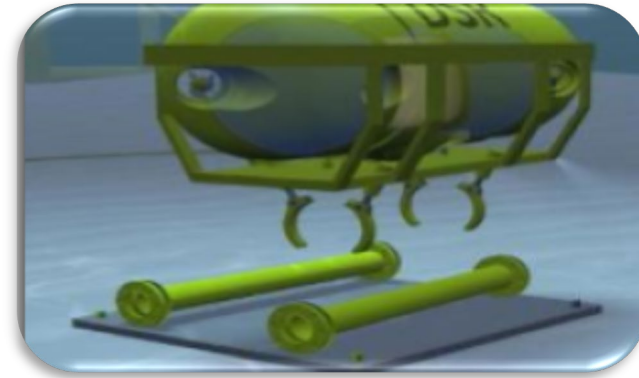
## Circular Decommissioning Opportunities

- Need for cheaper, repeatable, autonomous subsea solutions with low emissions
- Deploy solutions in lifting and handling infrastructure across all subsea sectors



# ROVAR – Key Features and Products

- Patented cryogenic variable buoyancy system
- **ROVAR**: “Remotely Operated Vehicle for Assets Recovery”
  - Vapourised liquid nitrogen displaces seawater for buoyancy
  - Buoyancy controlled through gasification system, relief valves to retain / release gas in caissons, and control system and sensors
  - Bespoke tooling and thrusters for handling and lateral positioning
  - Lift repeatability varies with dewar caisson sizing, load and depth
- Standard system, **ROVAR-20**: 20Te lifting and handling AUV specifically designed as vessel backdeck equipment for mobilisation during decommissioning and construction support
- **ROVAR-BB** (Buoyancy Beam) designed to handle and spread the load of long structures such as cables, pipeline bundles, umbilicals and tubulars
- **ROVAR-WB** (buoyant Wet Basket) is an adapted seabed basket with integral buoyancy, designed to provide the means of multiple item delivery / recovery with independent and controllable lift





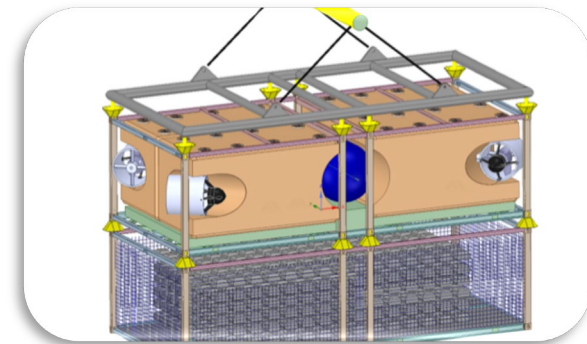
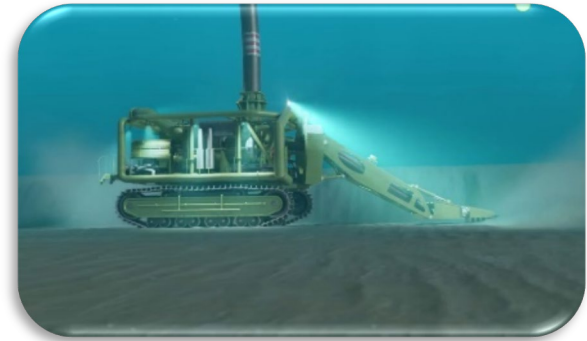
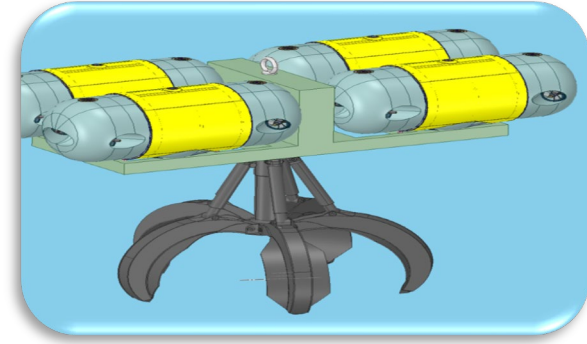
# ROVAR Solutions – Core and Additional

## Core Solutions / Decarbonisation & Energy Transition

- Decommissioning for oil & gas congested field clearance, removal and recovery, 10s to 100Tes
- Decommissioning of oil & gas pipeline bundles for cutting, lifting and tow
- Construction support for infrastructure deployment, both offshore wind and oil & gas
- Lifting and positioning of mooring lines, and dynamic cable handling for floating offshore wind

## Additional Solutions & Product Variations

- “Pick and Place” and “Hunt and Gather” modes
- Boulder clearance and debris removal
- Seabed vehicle assist for payload compensation in different soil conditions
- Submersible autonomous vehicle variable buoyancy
- Moonpool version for gantry lifts e.g. mattress deployment
- Salvage and recovery of lost and derelict equipment i.e. ghost gear



# ROVAR – How it integrates Decommissioning into the Circular Economy

## REDUCE & ELIMINATE

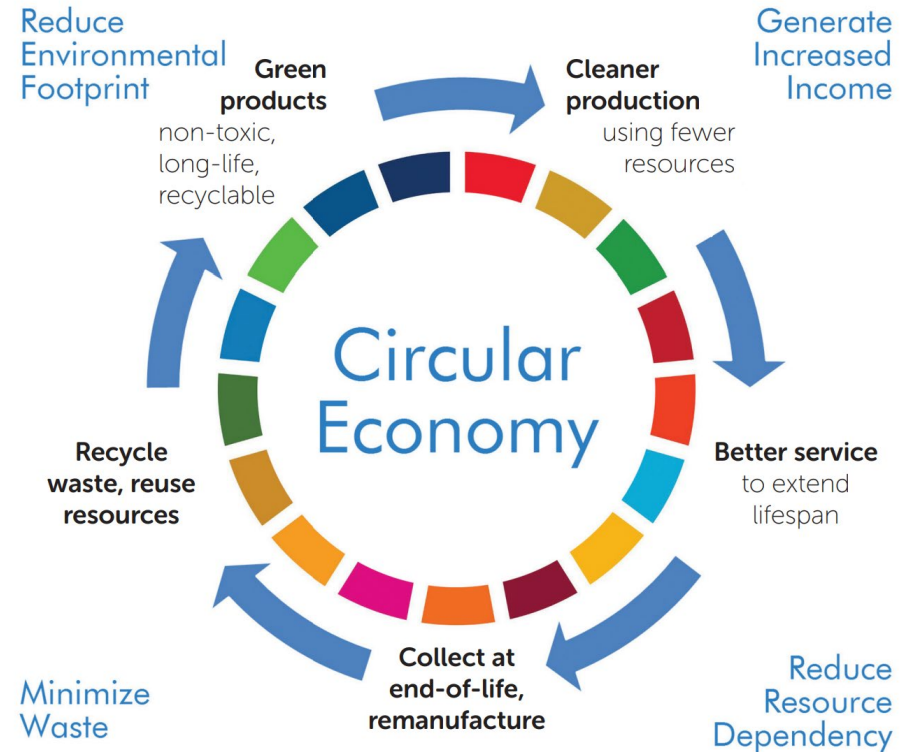
- Reduces reliance on larger vessels for operations
- Expands functionality of small vessels to replace large vessels
- Reduces marine and subsea spread costs and consumables
- Reduces emissions of vessel and crane operations

## RECYCLE & REUSE

- Enables parallel operations marine, subsea and seabed
- Allows developers to access a wider vessel market
- Simplifies recovery of infrastructure for reuse and repurpose
- Enables mobilisation for multiple operations

## REMEDIATE & REGENERATE

- Reduces emissions and noise with use of smaller spreads and vessel
- Reduces marine impact with “pick and place” and “hunt and gather”
- Minimises seabed damage with controllable subsea handling
- Reduces marine life impact with low impact extended operations in adverse weather





# Key Points & Asks

- ROVAR technology fully scalable and adaptable to multiple scenarios
- Technology proven to TRL6+, currently preparing for TRL7
- Market driven Products – 20Te multi-purpose, Buoyancy Beam for pipelines and cabling, buoyant Wet Basket for self-lift
- ROVAR products demonstrate reduce, recycle, remediation principles
- Multiple uses promotes parallel and circular seabed and subsea operations
- Project Developer / Operator / Supply Chain required
  - Investing Partners for commercial deployment and scaleup
  - Participants for final development & deployment of new UK technology





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# Smarter Subsea Handling – Meet the Team

## EXECUTIVE



Phil Pritchard  
Founder, CTO, Director



Richard Stevens  
CEO, Director



Peter Watt  
Head of Engineering



Fraser Pritchard  
Interim COO & Advisory Board



Engineering team leaders –  
cryogenics and control systems

## ADVISORY BOARD



Prof. Ajit Sheno  
Naval Architecture and Lightweight  
Structures



Eleonora Gatti  
Sustainability and ESG



Kimberley Denjean  
Commercial Deployment



Roger Esson  
Decommissioning and Net Zero



Raffle Chan  
Technology transfer, Asia



## Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to providing opportunity to all with an emphasis on promoting career paths for the younger generation, including apprentices and graduates, regardless of gender, ethnicity and other protected characteristics.