



SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP



MAKING WAVES

Solent's Marine and Maritime Sector • September 2015

▶ **5%**

Forecasted growth for the marine and maritime sector in the Solent region over the period to 2025



Solent's coastal location, its business base, its research assets and educational strengths, positions it as the UK's leading marine cluster, at the heart of the UK's marine and maritime economy.

▶ **40,000**
local jobs

provided by the sector which also supports more than 3,000 businesses and accounts for 20.5% of Solent's GVA





The Solent's marine and maritime heritage is quite simply extraordinary. Our success is founded on our unique geographic advantages and physical assets combined with centuries of success in traditional maritime skills.

At its best the sector has the potential to support significant growth in the Solent economy, providing a pivotal role across the wider South Coast and playing a significant role at the heart of our Maritime Nation.

Continuing that success in an increasingly competitive global market requires leadership. The Solent Marine and Maritime Steering Group (SMMSG) aims to do just that. By giving a voice to the sector in the Solent area we will seek to drive a new culture of working together across the Solent to support investment, innovation, and to nurture the skills and talents required to embrace new technologies.

The Solent Marine and Maritime Strategy was published alongside the Solent's Strategic Economic Plan, Transforming Solent, in March 2014. The SMMSG was established soon after to advise the Solent LEP on the delivery and further development of the Strategy.

One year on from the establishment of the Steering Group we're taking stock of progress for our sector and setting our sights firmly on the future. There are exciting prospects ahead for the sector and the wider economy and we will continue to work with business in driving these opportunities.



Brian Johnson, BAE Systems

Chair, Solent Marine and Maritime Steering Group

PROGRESS TO DATE

£7 million of government funding secured to support Sir Ben Ainslie's America's Cup sailing team

Providing leadership for the sector

The SMMSG advises the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board on the needs of the sector. With representation from marine and maritime businesses together with representatives of higher and further education, local government, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), and the Ministry of Defence, the SMMSG provides a voice for the sector.

National Maritime Systems Centre of Excellence

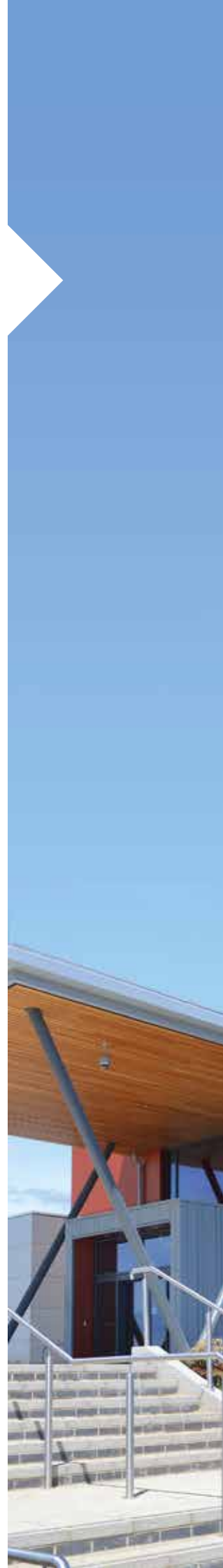
Supported by the Growth Deal, the National Maritime Systems Centre of Excellence will be the UK's focus for the design, integration, test, evaluation and front line support of the complex, software intensive systems that deliver the Royal Navy's fighting capability. Building on the Centre for Maritime Intelligent Systems (CMIS) and safeguarding existing and creating new, hi-tech, highly skilled engineering, science and technology jobs, this development represents a step change in the Solent region's ability to export to the world's marine and maritime defence markets.



Land Rover Ben Ainslie Racing America's Cup Challenge

The Solent provides a base for Land Rover Ben Ainslie Racing's America's Cup challenge. £7m of government funding was secured to support Sir Ben Ainslie's America's Cup sailing team base for the Solent. The base, on The Camber in Portsmouth, provides a landmark development that will demonstrate our region's reputation as a centre of global excellence for the marine & maritime industries and will play an important role in enthusing young people to develop higher level skills to enter into a career in the sector.

Land Rover BAR. Picture courtesy of Mark Lloyd



Investing in skills

The Solent LEP has already invested in the Centre of Excellence in Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training (CEMAST). Specialising in STEM skills, CEMAST will act as the main learning centre for students in apprenticeship programmes with BAE Systems, GE Aviation, Virgin Atlantic, Coopervision, Burgess Marine and Jensen Motorsport. With the support of round one Growth Deal funding, a new Centre of Excellence for Composites will be created on the Isle of Wight. Led by the Isle of Wight College, the centre will be supported by the global engineering company, GKN and based alongside their high-tech facilities.

► **CEMAST** will act as the main learning centre for students in apprenticeship programmes

Additional investments will support and upgrade facilities at Eastleigh College to include a new Advanced Technology block, further supporting the development of STEM skills.

Port Access and connectivity – through the Growth Deal and Road Investment Strategy

Transforming Solent, has made a clear case for improving the strategic infrastructure and connectivity of the Solent. High levels of congestion are already estimated to be costing up to £0.4bn p.a. in Hampshire and £0.1bn p.a. to both Southampton and Portsmouth. Increased activity within the ports will place further demands on an already stretched infrastructure.

Growth Deal successes coupled with a range of significant road improvements detailed in Highways England's Road Investment Strategy¹, will deliver a substantial investment to improve access to ports and improve connectivity for marine and maritime businesses. This includes a commitment to improve Western Access to the Port of Southampton². This will help maximise the £150m of investment that the Port of Southampton is making in improving the capacity and capability of the port to be able to take the world's largest container vessels and further enhance its position as the cruise capital of Europe.

► **£150 million** investment that the Port of Southampton is making in improving the capacity and capability of the port

Growth Deal investment in the Solent Gateways project, coupled with investment by Red Funnel will also remove the capacity constraints of the ferry operation between East Cowes and Southampton, enabling developments of a significant size on both sides of the Solent, and unlocking development potential.

¹ Road Investment Strategy: Overview, December 2014, Department of Transport

² The Western Access to Port of Southampton scheme is included within Highways England's 2015-2020 investment programme.



▶ **£1 million** fund has been launched by Solent LEP in association with the University of Southampton and the Defence Growth Partnership (DGP)

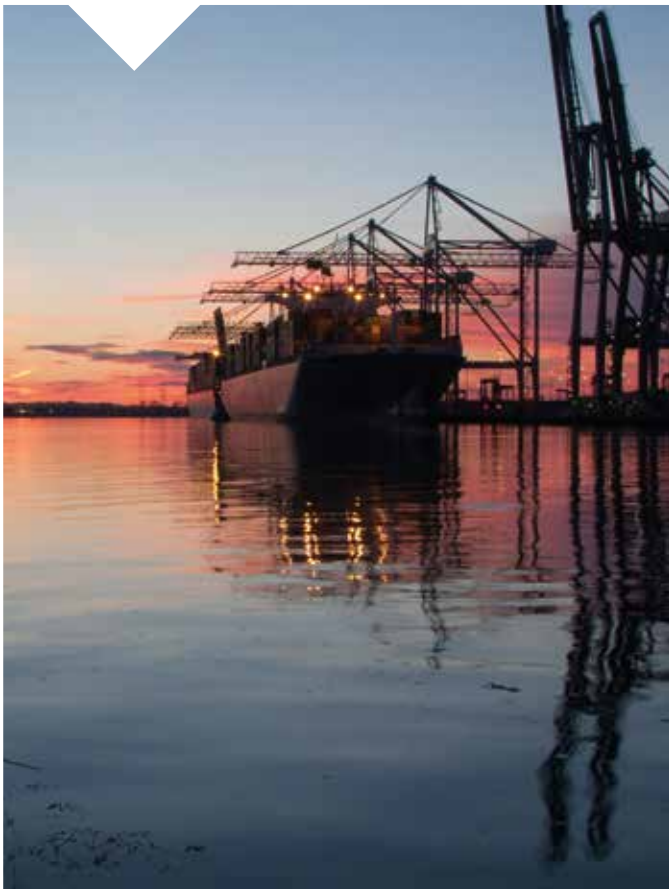
DGP SME Fund launched

Linked to the announcement of investment of the Centre for Maritime Intelligent Systems, a £1m fund has been launched by Solent LEP in association with the University of Southampton and the Defence Growth Partnership (DGP). The fund aims to support Solent SMEs developing unmanned marine systems such as autonomous boats and submarines.

Large Scale Composites

A feasibility study has been completed to make the case for the establishment of an open access facility to assist in the development of design and manufacturing technologies needed to make very large composites structures for use in the oil and gas, transport, construction, energy and marine sectors. The Solent is hopeful that this will provide the basis for investment in the establishment of a National Large Structures Composites Centre, and build on the composites cluster that already exists here.

SUPPORTING THE SECTOR



Marine manufacturing

The Solent has the foundations of a world-class ship and boat-building industry. We will encourage the creation of industry-led Marine Enterprise Hubs to act as magnets for inward investment and a focus for the incubation of high-value marine manufacturing activities in the Solent.

Marine Enterprise Hubs are areas of land where marine manufacturing companies can co-locate. More than just space and facilities, the hubs seek to create an eco-system for growth that brings together a community of like-minded successful, innovative marine businesses that collaborate, employ skilled people, attract customers from around the world, earn export revenue, showcase our strengths and create wealth for the region.

The SMMSG has developed a framework setting out the features that the industry has identified that should form part of marine enterprise hubs in the Solent region.

Waterfront Employment Sites Study

Without access to waterfront employment sites the marine and maritime sector will fail to reach its potential. The need for a better understanding of the Solent area's waterfront assets, as part of an evidence base to support policy making on site retention, is echoed in concerns being raised by the marine and maritime business community and some policy makers that land suitable for marine industries is being lost to alternative uses such as residential.

SMMSG has produced an extensive study of available sites in the Solent area and have developed strategic categorisations. The register will be updated on an annual basis and will provide an invaluable resource for the sector and public sector agencies.

Enabling innovation through our research assets framework

The Solent is home to world class marine-related research and innovation assets. However, the high cost of accessing these facilities places them beyond the reach of many fledgling yet high-growth companies.

The SMMSG has developed a framework setting out the key features that would enable our SME's to access these world-class research assets.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The marine and maritime sector is central to the economy of the Solent. As the Solent region seeks to raise its growth trajectory and productivity in line with its neighbours in the South East, the marine and maritime sector will need to rise to the challenge of raising productivity. In the coming period the SMMSG will therefore set its sights on the following.



Meeting the Skills needs of the sector

We will work with the skills sector and take advantage of opportunities through European Funding. We recognise that there is a need for the sector to identify the skills gaps and work with service providers and funders to build a world class pipeline of the skills required to support growth in our sector.

Promoting access to waterfront sites to stimulate the growth of the sector

We will publish and maintain the register of waterfront sites and seek to work with Local Authorities to shape Local Planning policy and Growth Deal investments. Developing Innovative Capacity within the sector Working with the Solent's Universities we will support the development of an Innovation Strategy, which identifies the competitive advantages of the sector and seeks to improve the innovation ecosystem.

Building the Brand

In conjunction with work to deliver a step-change in the delivery of Inward Investment, we will work to develop a compelling brand for the Solent.



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For further details on the work of the Solent Marine and Maritime Steering Group, contact Solent LEP on: **02392 688924** or **info@solentlep.org.uk**