
Malin Group
Maritime Supply Chain Innovation Centre (MSCIC): An Anchor for Opportunity for Scotland

Empowering Scotland's Maritime and Advanced Manufacturing Future

The Maritime Supply Chain Innovation Centre (MSCIC), based at the Scottish Marine Technology Park (SMTP), is Scotland's Anchor for Opportunity, designed to transform how SMEs engage with innovation and drive competitiveness in maritime and adjacent sectors.

With the UK making once-in-a-generation investments in defence and renewable energy infrastructure, including a major offshore wind expansion, now is the time to ensure that local industries benefit. But success depends on one key factor: the ability of regional SMEs to adopt advanced technologies so that they can compete globally. That's where MSCIC comes in.

Built for SMEs, Shaped by SMEs: Where Innovation Meets Practical Execution

MSCIC is not a traditional research centre. It will be a purpose-built platform developed around the realities, challenges, and ambitions of SMEs. Its mission: to accelerate the adoption of technologies through practical, low-risk, cost-effective deployment support.

- Short-to-Medium Term Focus: Projects are structured for immediate impact, not 5-year timelines.
- Lean, Adaptable Operations: Designed to lower barriers and reduce risk for SME participants.
- Hands-On Innovation: Technologies are tested in real-world conditions using client-supplied materials, delivering useable and deployable solutions.
- Supporting Supply Chain: A local and varied supply chain becomes increasingly flexible, agile and integrated - enabling easier relationships between the supply chain and Primes, and answering a diverse range of client needs.

This is bare-bones innovation without the red tape. Instead of chasing theoretical excellence, MSCIC delivers what matters most...results today.

Connected to National Programmes and the Major Players Who Drive Them: Bridging Global Demand with Local Capability

Large-scale national initiatives, especially those led by global organisations, play a critical role in defining future infrastructure and capability needs. But all too often, the link between these programmes and the regional supply chain is weak or misaligned, resulting in systems that serve neither the strategic objectives of prime contractors nor the economic ambitions of local industries.

MSCIC is designed to close that gap. By bringing together partner organisations with the scale, credibility, and national visibility to influence major programmes, MSCIC acts as a bridge, aligning the real-world demands of maritime primes with the capabilities and potential of the regional supply base.

These partners aren't just participating, they're committed to building stronger relationships with local suppliers, supporting them to meet increasingly complex technical and delivery requirements. And through its close collaboration with research leaders like the University of Strathclyde, MSCIC will ensure that innovation is not only developed, but deployed in ways that meet both national priorities and local growth ambitions.

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Maritime and More: Cross-Sector Capabilities with a Coastal Advantage

While rooted in the maritime sector, MSCIC's relevance spans industries. The technologies it promotes, robotics, automation, digital twins, and data analytics, apply equally to:

- Defence growth and supply chain development
- Offshore wind and renewables
- Infrastructure and heavy fabrication
- Engineering and manufacturing of complex structures

Its riverside location and maritime branding reflect regional strengths but taps into local and national clustering and its operational focus reaches across sectors, wherever advanced manufacturing can make a difference.

Pragmatic Innovation That Works: Sustainable, Scalable, and Sector-Smart

MSCIC redefines how innovation centres operate:

- Financial Sustainability: Revenues from SMTP tenants and low-overhead operations make the Centre resilient, even without constant public funding.
- Flexible Infrastructure: Modular, reconfigurable project spaces allow rapid transitions between client needs.
- Agile Core Team: A lean staffing model ensures cost-effectiveness and scalability.

And through partnerships with technology providers, training institutions, and researchers, like the University of Strathclyde's SEARCH Lab, MSCIC helps adapt and deploy field-ready technologies with maximum impact.

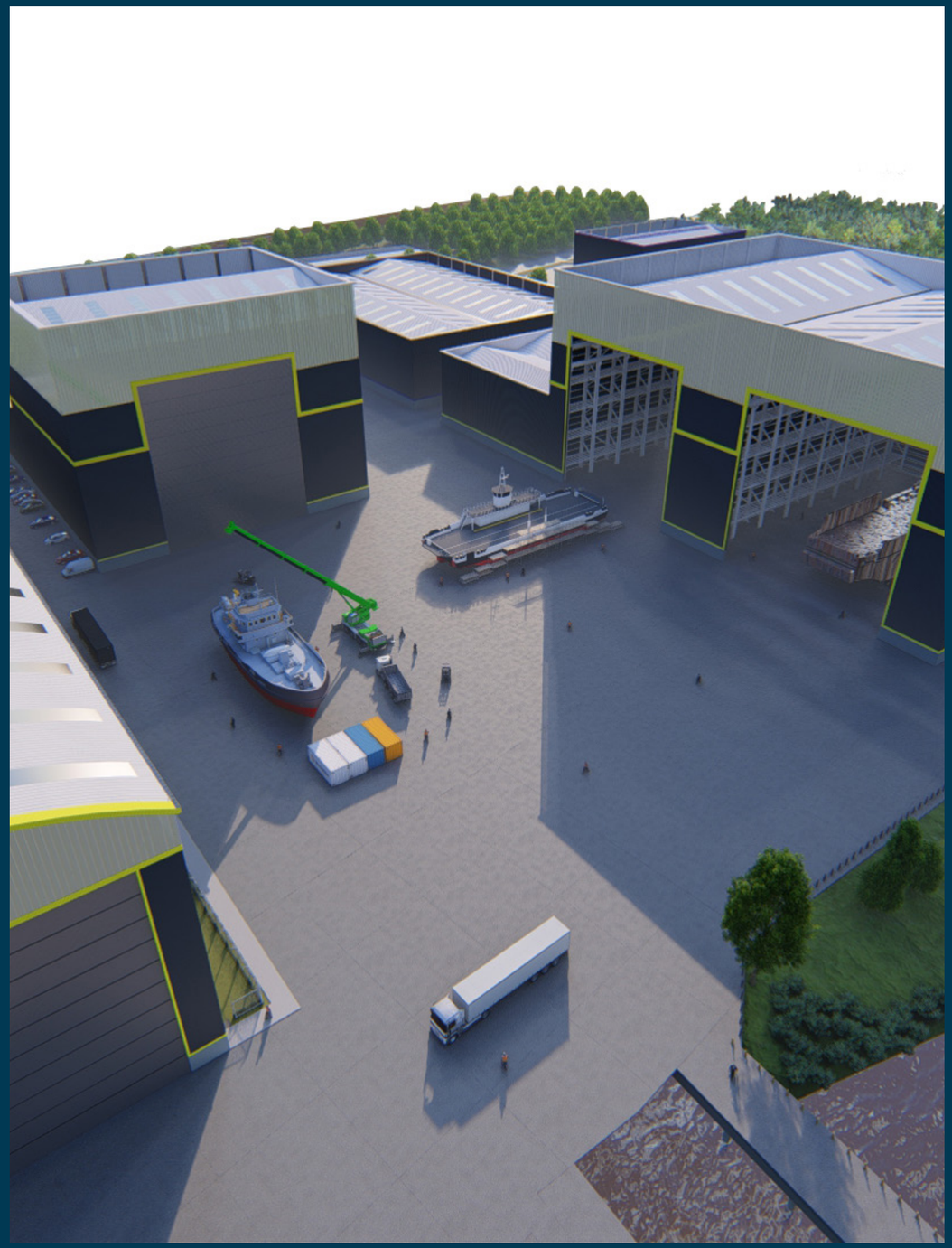
Anchoring Opportunity - What It Really Means

Creating Enduring Economic Growth in the Glasgow City Region

Anchoring opportunity means ensuring local businesses, not just global suppliers, gain from the UK's energy infrastructure and defence investments. That requires:

- Making technology accessible and deployable
- Supporting SMEs in adopting innovation quickly and effectively
- Building systems that turn investment into long-term regional prosperity

MSCIC bridges the final gap: taking technologies that are available, but often out of reach, and making them work practically for SMEs.



Solving Real Problems, Not Just Showcasing Tech: A Centre That Listens, Responds, and Delivers

Too many innovation initiatives have proved to be misaligned with SMEs by offering abstract research with little relevance, or solutions which need further development before they can be deployed. MSCIC seeks to be different.

- Industry-Driven Priorities: Project agendas are shaped by real SME challenges, not academic interests.
- Independent & Objective: As an honest broker, MSCIC guides companies to the best solution, whether internal or external.
- Skills Through Immersion: Embedding industrial learners in live projects tackles the skills gap with real-time, hands-on training.

This is pragmatic innovation built with, and for, the businesses it serves.

Governance With Purpose: Clarity. Accountability. Action.

MSCIC's governance structure ensures the Centre remains mission-focused:

- Governance is separate from day-to-day operations
- Principles guide direction, not bureaucracy
- Performance metrics are simple, meaningful, and aligned to SME success

The governance model reflects a promise: to deliver innovation that works in the real world.

Rebuilding Trust, One Project at a Time
A New Approach Rooted in Practical Impact

MSCIC acknowledges the past. SMEs have often found it difficult to get value from innovation initiatives.

We're doing it differently. Every MSCIC project will be co-created, tailored, and transparently executed. Successes will be shared, openly and frequently, to inspire confidence, enable adoption, and drive change across the industrial landscape.

Case Study: Rolls-Royce, University of Strathclyde, Malin - Rapid SME Capability Uplift for Nuclear Manufacture

Why This Case Study Matters

This case study demonstrates what is possible when a major defence OEM and an SME engage openly, share risk, and commit to delivering differently and at pace. Enabled by long-standing relationships with the University of Strathclyde, the partnership moved beyond traditional supply-chain models to create secure nuclear manufacturing capability in under nine months. It provides a practical example of the MSCIC vision in action: meeting national defence and nuclear demand through "supply on the Clyde", underpinned by advanced technology, academic collaboration and agile SME delivery.

The Challenge

Driven by near-term programme demand and AUKUS, Rolls-Royce required a rapid increase in secure, nuclear-qualified manufacturing capacity while expansion at its primary site was still underway. The solution needed to meet exceptional standards for security, quality, safety culture and specialist welding skills, and also support longer-term development of advanced welding technologies. Traditional supplier engagement models were too slow to deliver at the required pace.

The Partnership Model

A tri-party partnership was formed between:

- Rolls-Royce – nuclear standards, programme demand and industrial leadership
- University of Strathclyde – research capability and advanced manufacturing expertise
- Malin (SME) – facilities, agility and core fabrication skills

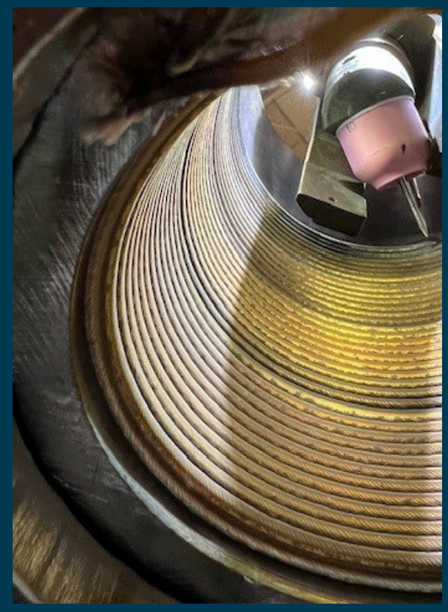
The model deliberately combined prime-level rigour, academic innovation and SME speed. Malin was selected based on regional presence, existing relationships, suitable facilities and transferable skills. Governance was flexible but tightly controlled, with progress gated against security accreditation, welder qualification, equipment commissioning and process validation. A core principle was transparency on cost and progress, shared risk and reward, and long-term partnership rather than transactional procurement.

Capability Uplift And Delivery

Rolls-Royce redeployed specialist equipment and committed significant engineering and programme resource to support onboarding. This was reinforced by:

- Early technical and commercial mentoring
- Training and funding of a dedicated project and shop-floor team
- Joint development of nuclear quality systems and processes

A new secure facility was constructed around the equipment in parallel with training and commissioning wherever safe to do so, enabling an aggressive but controlled delivery schedule. The University provided technical support and access to emerging welding technologies during commissioning.



Results And Impact

In under nine months, the partnership delivered:

- A secure, expandable nuclear manufacturing offload facility
- Immediate additional production capacity for Rolls-Royce
- Increased resilience across the nuclear supply chain

Longer-term benefits include:

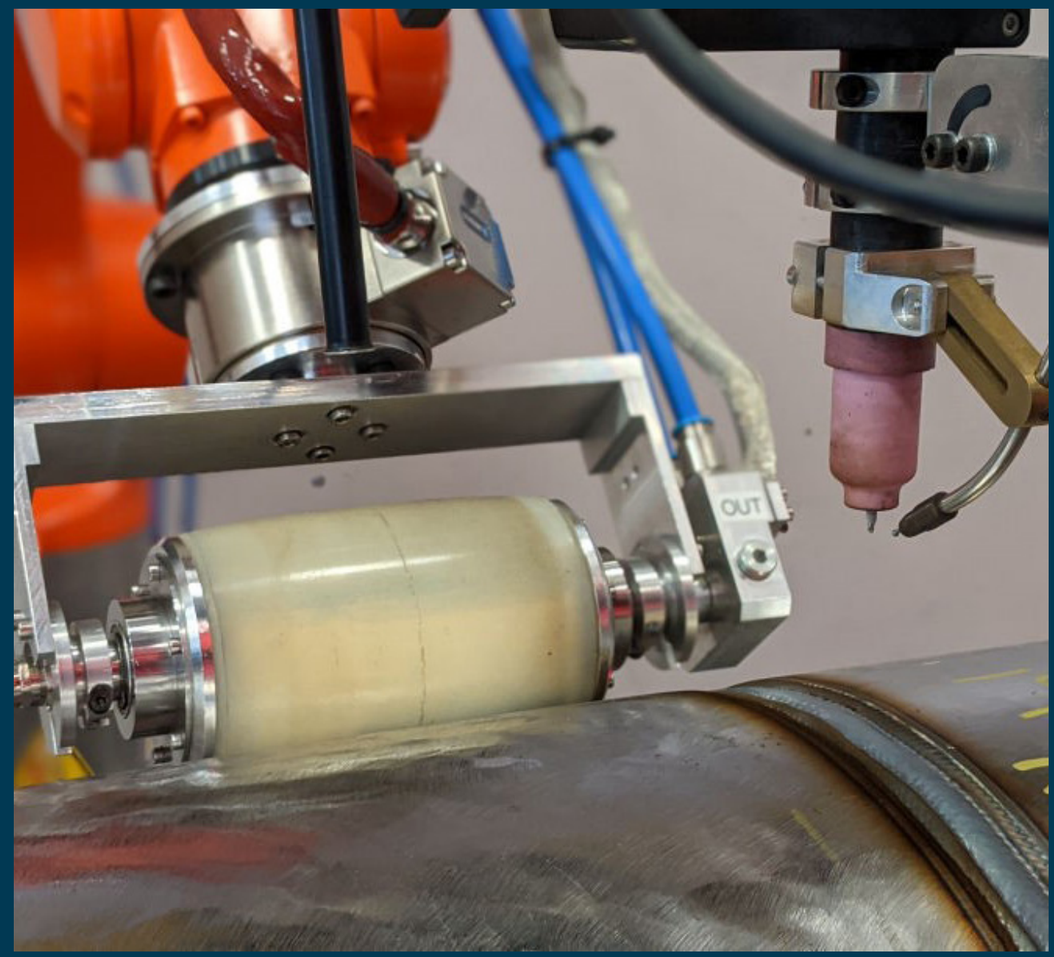
- Significant SME development and workforce upskilling
- New high-value manufacturing capability established in Scotland
- Follow-on private investment and expansion at Malin
- A proven, repeatable model for rapid, high-assurance supply-chain mobilisation

Key lessons for MSCIC and defence industrial strategy

- Share risk and reward to enable pace
- Build relationships, not just contracts
- Match SME agility with sustained prime-level technical and leadership support
- Accept managed risk and learning as the cost of speed
- Use commercial models suited to asymmetric partners
- Invest in capability, not just capacity

Closing Perspective

SMEs are central to the UK's defence and nuclear industrial base. Scaling national capability at the speed now required demands new partnership models that combine trust, technical depth and delivery agility. This programme shows that, with the right structure and intent, advanced and secure manufacturing capability can be created rapidly and sustainably — delivering immediate programme value and long-term strategic resilience.



MSCIC - Join Us: It starts now

MSCIC is more than a facility, it's a movement to establish an Anchor for Opportunity where it's needed most. Through practical, deployable innovation and a clear focus on SME realities, we're building the Clyde's next industrial era...one breakthrough at a time.

Let's build it together...Find out more and share your views on the MSCIC here

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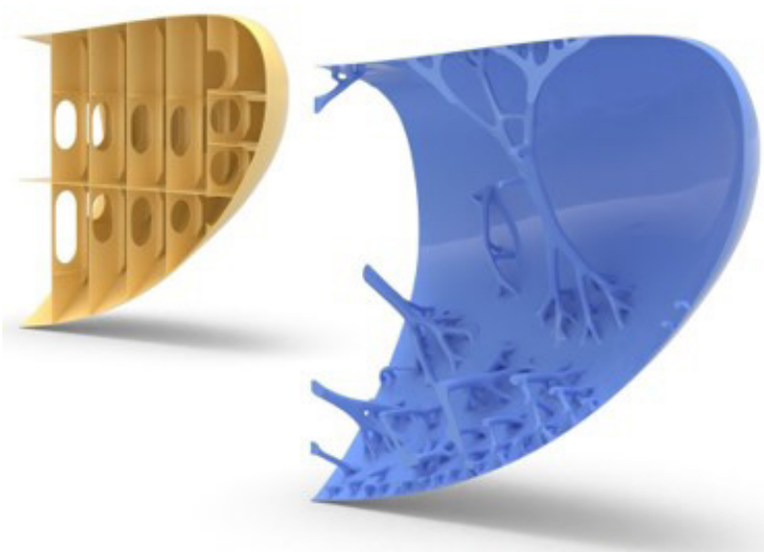

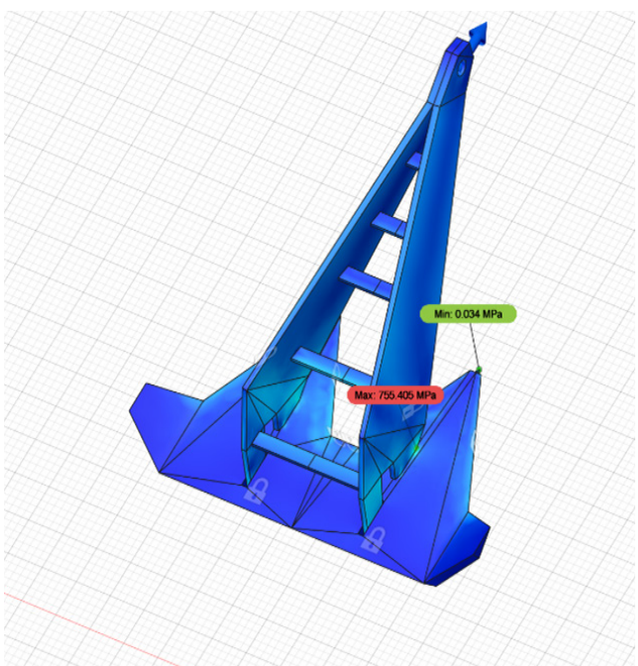

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