

# SMART SOUND CONNECT PLYMOUTH



## OUTCOMES

- A testbed for local and international businesses to create and develop marine 5G use cases
- £1.8 million of Growth Deal funding was provided by the Heart of the South West LEP to support the project

Smart Sound Plymouth is Britain's premier proving area for the development of cutting-edge projects for the marine sector. The Smart Sound Connect, launched in February 2022, incorporates a private 4G/5G marine network and offshore high-speed communications to the area.

Plymouth has long been a leader in the maritime industry, and the world's first marine-focused 5G testbed is another breakthrough.



The high-speed network will allow our integrated fleet of autonomous platforms – which include state-of-the-art data buoys and robotic vessels loaded with environmental sensors – to communicate the unprecedented levels of ocean data they are able to capture in real-time. This will support further advances in high-tech marine innovation while also informing world-leading scientific research



**Dr James Fishwick, Head of Smart Sound at Plymouth Marine Laboratory**

The new 4G/5G networks will be seamlessly integrated to provide an advanced communication capability from the quayside to more than 20 miles offshore, and deliver world-leading advanced communications infrastructure across the entire Smart Sound area.

The network is the first of its kind and will be free for businesses, academics and Government organisations to use in their testing and research on and under the waters of Plymouth Sound.

Smart Sound Connect is using cutting edge innovation to accelerate developments in marine technology through 5G. The 5G mobile private network will allow companies to test and develop new ideas and use cases beyond the shore's edge, in a way that was not previously possible.

**Nick Gliddon, Business Director at Vodafone UK**

Developing strong, reliable infrastructure to support communications and innovation is crucial in the LEP's aim to boost prosperity in the region. The LEP is proud to have invested £22.13 million in broadband and mobile connectivity across Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay to date.

## ABOUT THE HOTSW LEP

The LEP is a business-led partnership between the private sector, local authorities, universities and colleges, aiming to lead and influence economic growth, job creation and prosperity.

Find out more at:

[heartofswlep.co.uk](http://heartofswlep.co.uk)

