

UK PORTS CONFERENCE 2025

4-5 JUNE | LONDON



ROSA ROTKO

PROJECT DIRECTOR ENERGY TRANSFORMATION
MOTT MACDONALD

Ahead of [UK Ports Conference, taking place on 4-5 June](#), **Rosa Rotko, Project Director Energy Transformation at Mott MacDonald**, shares thoughts on the opportunities for hydrogen development.

WHAT ARE THE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PORTS CURRENTLY? HOW CAN PORTS RESPOND TO MAXIMISE THESE?

Many ports are becoming major energy hubs, for example to support manufacturing and shipping of energy assets, to provide land for power generation or hydrogen production, or to facilitate shore power. This requires ports leadership and wider teams to increase their understanding and capabilities around the energy market and related drivers so they are better placed to respond to emerging trends and opportunities.

HOW CAN PORTS IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY AND REDUCE EMISSIONS?

Provision of shore power facilities is a key to reducing emissions from vessels and improving local air quality. Ports could also team up with local authorities and the wider transport sector to facilitate charging for electric vehicles, taxis, bus fleets and lorries. Both of these areas could be facilitated through upgrading grid connections that benefit multiple parties – and ports could be key coordinators in making this happen.

WHAT ARE THE LEADING OPTIONS FOR FUTURE FUELS? HOW CAN PORTS SUPPORT THESE?

There is uncertainty around transition to lower carbon fuels globally, but it is possible to have a more focused approach when considering a particular port and the types of vessels that call there. It would be prudent for ports to engage with the relevant vessel operators, to understand their transition plans in terms of timing and likely fuel choices. The port can then start to develop a provisional infrastructure and capability plan for how they can respond.

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT? HOW CAN THESE BE NAVIGATED?

High capital cost is a barrier to new energy infrastructure such as upgraded grid connections and shore power facilities. Partnering with an energy provider is one solution – where they invest in the assets and provide energy and related services back to the port and its users. There are many models in the market and it's important to analyse and procure these carefully.

BOOK HERE