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**February 22-24, 2022**

**Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown RI**

*Program Agenda below*

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**Thank you to our premier Sponsors!**



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**Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Blue Innovation Symposium.**

We are glad to be back in person for The Blue Innovation Symposium '22! This year, we have put together a conference that, we hope, stays true to our original mission to educate, connect, and facilitate partnering opportunities within the marine technology industry.



**We want to thank our sponsors, without you this conference simply would not be possible.**

Co-organizers this year included Erin Donahue, Consulate General of Canada in Boston, Justin Manley, Just Innovation, and Roger Race, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies.

We look forward to seeing you!

Tobias (Toby) Stapleton, PhD, Co-Founder  
The Blue Innovation Symposium: By the Industry, For the Industry.

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## Agenda

### The Future of the Blue Economy

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

1:00-7:30 pm

1:30-1:40 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**, Tobias Stapleton, PhD, MBA, President, Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN)

1:40-2:30 p.m. **Panel: Support for Ocean Tech Development, disruptive thinking**

Moderator: Roger Race, Director of Innovation, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies

Panelists:

- Nick Rotker, Chief Blue Tech Strategist, MITRE Laboratories
- Stephen Piper, Partner, Data and Technology Transformation, IBM
- Andrew Davies, Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences, URI
- Sagar Jha, Ecosystems and Partnerships Manager, Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE)

2:30-3:15 p.m. **NavalX Tech Bridge, a perspective from the Office of Naval Research**

Speakers: Captain Benjamin Van Buskirk, Director, NavalX (ASN RD&A)  
Whitney Tallarico, Director, Tech Bridge

3:15-3:30 p.m. Networking Break

3:30-4:00 p.m. **Resilient Infrastructure and Secure Energy (RISE) Consortium: Powering Partnerships to Confront the Climate Crisis**

Facilitator: Tobias Stapleton, PhD, MBA, President of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN)

Speakers: Chris Van Metre, President and CEO, Advanced Technology International  
Michael Wu, Executive Director, RISE Consortium

4:00 -4:40 p.m. **401 Tech Bridge Accelerating our Regional Blue Economy through Blue Tech Innovation**, a fireside chat with Vic Ricci, Chief Technology Officer, Naval Underseas Warfare Center

Facilitator: Christian Cowen, Executive Director, 401 Tech Bridge

4:40 -5:00 pm **MassChallenge Blue, Fostering Blue Technology Innovations**

Facilitator: Hope Hopkins, Director, Blue Track, MassChallenge

Featuring Flash Talks from:

- Jaia Robotics, LLC – *Jaia Robotics mission is to make the collection of ocean data affordable and available to all that need it*
- Current Lab – *the first unified system for accessing and visualizing powerful real-time ocean data from the global scale to the hyper-local*

5:00 -5:30 pm **Entering the Canadian Ocean Technology Ecosystem**

Speakers:

- Erin Donahue, Trade Commissioner, Ocean Technologies, Canadian Consulate General of Canada in Boston
- Hon. Stephen McNeil, Senior Business Advisor, Cox & Palmer
- Mohammad Ali Raza, Partner / Lawyer, Cox & Palmer

5:30–7:30 pm **Opening Reception**

**MOTN's First Annual Steve Withrow Award**

**Steve Withrow**, presented by Harlan Doliner, VP Legal Compliance & Director Marine Technology-Maritime Services, Mabbett

**Rising Tide Awards:**

- **Dive Technologies**, presented by Mark Smithers, CTO, Boston Engineering Corporation
- **Sensor Technology**, presented by Roger Cuzner, Consul General of Canada in Boston
- **Jim Hanlon**, presented by Erin Daily Donahue, Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada, Boston

Sponsored by Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN)

Rising Tide Awards, sponsored by Boston Engineering Corp. & TSC Strategic/Ocean News and Technology

## **Blue Innovation Symposium**

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

**8:30 am- 7:00 pm**

- 8:30-8:40 am **Introductory Remarks:**  
Tobias Stapleton, PhD, MBA, President of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN)  
  
Jeff Smith, VP and General Manager, Autonomous and Undersea Systems, SAAB, Inc.
- 8:40-8:50 am **Opening Remarks:**  
US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- 8:50-9:00 am **Welcome:**  
The Honorable Daniel McGee, Governor, State of Rhode Island
- 9:00-9:40 am **Opening Plenaries: The Future of Offshore Wind and Ocean Research**  
  
Dr. Rodney E. Cluck, Chief, Division of Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies Program, Office of Environmental Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
  
Craig McLean, Assistant Administrator for Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- 9:40-10:15 am **Accelerating Innovation in the Offshore Wind Industry**, a fireside chat with Neil Hamel, Head, Innovation & Venture Hub, Ørsted
- 10:15-11:00 am **Panel: Creating Opportunities in the Blue Economy, a regional perspective**  
Moderator: Nate Walton, Principal, Sachem Strategies  
  
Panelists:
- Christian Cowen, Executive Director, 401 Tech Bridge
  - Molly Magee, Executive Director, Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC)
  - Carolyn Kirk, Executive Director, MassTech Collaborative
  - Eric Siegel, Executive in Residence, Creative Destruction Labs (CDL) Oceans
- 11:00-11:15am **Networking Break**
- 11:15-12:00pm **Flash Talks: Global Innovators and Entrepreneurs**
- [Blue Angel Finance](#)
  - [Cirtronics](#)
  - [Juice Robotics](#)
  - [Sensor Technology](#)
  - [Gazpek](#)
  - [Voltai, Inc.](#)
  - [Seatrac Systems, Inc.](#)
- 12:00-1:15 pm **Lunch, Networking**
- 1:15-2:00 pm **Panel: From In Situ, to Distributed, to Sensorless Sensing – New Approaches to Ocean Data and Services**  
  
Moderator: Jose Vasquez, Director, Defense & Security, Boston Engineering Corporation

Panelists:

- Vince Sieben, Associate Professor at Dalhousie University, Dartmouth Ocean Technology
- Shik Sundar, VP Sales, Sofar Ocean, Inc.
- Michael Wardlaw, Program Officer, Maritime Sensing, Office of Naval Research

2:00-3:00pm **Flash Talks:** Global Innovators and Entrepreneurs

- Boston Engineering
- Ropeless Riser
- Open Ocean Robotics
- nU-Boats
- CORSphere Software
- qualiTeas
- Cellula Robotics
- Marecomms

3:00-3:15pm **Networking Break**

3:15-4:00 pm Panel: BlueTech Entrepreneurs and Innovators

Moderator: Justin Manley, Just Innovation

Panelists:

- Yi Chao, PhD, Founder and CEO, Seatrec
- Raymond Schmitt, PhD, Professor, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) and Founder and President/CEO, Salient Predictions
- Marc D'Entremont, CEO and Founder, Pombcoup Technologies

4:00-4:45pm **Plenary:** Dr. Anna Michel, Chief Scientist – National Deep Submergence Facility, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI)

5:00-7:00 pm **Closing Reception**

## **ECONOMIC UPDATE BREAKFAST**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

(This event is included in your BIS registration, but you must RSVP directly to [Robyn@blueinnovationsymposium.com](mailto:Robyn@blueinnovationsymposium.com))

**The Future of the Region's Blue Economy**, a fireside chat with Dr. Marc Parlange, President, University of Rhode Island, and Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island.

Rhode Island has a diverse, and world-class, blue tech ecosystem that includes industry, governmental, and research organizations that make significant contributions to the blue economy both regionally and around the world. To provide support to these existing assets, foster startups, and attract blue technology firms to the state, a team from Rhode Island, that included the University of Rhode Island and the State of RI, recently submitted a proposal, and was selected as one of 60 finalists, to the US Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC). If selected for a full award, it would mean millions of dollars in funding to support industry through specific infrastructure projects, and workforce training initiatives.

The proposed RI Blue Economy Technology Cluster (RI BETC) will establish Rhode Island and Southern New England as the leading global center of the Blue Economy, building upon existing regional, national, and global assets and backed by a consortium of industry, government, non-profit, and academic partners. This initiative will impact Rhode Island's entire Blue Economy which spans 6 sub-industries: ports & shipping, defense, marine trades, ocean-based renewables, aquaculture & fisheries, and tourism & recreation. During this fireside chat we'll hear, from Dr. Marc Parlange, President, University of Rhode Island, and Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island, how URI and the state of Rhode Island are supporting blue technology firms and how this potential funding from EDA might benefit the region's blue tech community. This fireside chat will be facilitated by Peter Rumsey, Chief Business Development Officer, URI Research Foundation/URI Ventures.

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast
8:30 a.m.-8:40 a.m.	Introduction and remarks: Tobias Stapleton, PhD, co-founder Blue Innovation Symposium
8:40 a.m.-8:50 a.m.	Welcome: Erin Donovan-Boyle, President Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
8:50 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	The Future of the Region's Blue Economy

Facilitator: Peter Rumsey, Chief Business Development Officer, URI Research Foundation/URI Ventures

Speakers:

- Dr. Marc Parlange, President, University of Rhode Island
- Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island.

*Sponsored by the Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, Connect Greater Newport*  
Pre-registration required.



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## Speakers & Panelists

Yi Chao  
Founder and CEO  
Seatrec, Inc.  
Email: [yi.chao@seatrec.com](mailto:yi.chao@seatrec.com)  
Website: <https://seatrec.com/>



Yi Chao is the Founder and CEO of Seatrec, Inc., a spinoff from California Institute of Technology. He pioneered the ocean thermal energy harvesting project at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR). Yi holds a Ph.D. in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from Princeton University. As a physical oceanographer, Yi studied the ocean from outer space and was a Project Scientist for the successful Aquarius Satellite Mission (a \$300M NASA project that launched the first salinity satellite), where he was responsible for science, technology, and engineering implementation. Before Seatrec, Yi has worked on numerous projects ranging from ocean science, satellite oceanography, ocean modeling, and underwater technology development. He is also affiliated with the University of California at Los Angeles as an Adjunct Professor.



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Rodney E. Cluck, Ph.D  
Chief, Division of Environmental Sciences  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Dr. Rodney Cluck holds a Ph.D. in environmental sociology from Mississippi State University and a Masters Degree in Rural Sociology from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. For 6 years, beginning in 1999, Dr. Cluck served as the senior Bureau social scientist where he developed and oversaw scientific studies and conducted National Environmental Policy Act analysis. In 2005, Dr. Cluck joined the Office of Renewable Energy Programs and became the project manager for the United States' first proposed offshore wind facility. Dr. Cluck is currently the Chief of the Division of Environmental Sciences where he leads the Environmental Studies Program, the scientific backbone that informs policy decisions regarding leasing and development of ocean energy.



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Christian Cowen  
Executive Director  
401 Tech Bridge  
Email: [ccowan@401techbridge.org](mailto:ccowan@401techbridge.org)  
Website: <https://401techbridge.org/>



Christian Cowan, serves as the Executive Director of 401 Techbridge and Chief Operating Officer at the URI Research Foundation. He is a senior executive with more than 20 years of experience in technical manufacturing operations and marketing in the IT networking, energy and textile industries. He brings both domestic and overseas hands-on manufacturing experience to the University of Rhode Island Research Foundation (URIRF), Polaris MEP's parent organization. Christian earned his BSEE degree from Villanova University and his MBA from the University of Rhode Island.



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Andrew J Davies,  
University of Rhode Island,  
Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences,  
University of Rhode Island

Andrew J. Davies is a professor from the College of Environment and Life Sciences and The Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. He specializes in the design, development and implementation of ocean observing systems in multiple oceans and habitats, from the coastal zone through to the deep ocean. He has recently worked to establish “The Bay Observatory” with colleagues from the URI-led consortium RI C-AIM, which aims to enhance ocean observing strategies in Narragansett Bay.



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Erin Daily Donahue  
Trade Commissioner  
Canadian Consulate General in Boston  
Website: <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/us-eu/boston.aspx?lang=eng>

Erin Daily Donahue is a Trade Commissioner responsible for defense, aerospace, and ocean technologies at the Canadian Consulate General in Boston. Since joining the Canadian Consulate team in 2005, Erin has held a variety of positions within both the Consular and International Business Development divisions. Prior to taking on responsibility for the defense and ocean technologies file, Erin was responsible for seafood and aquaculture technology sectors. As part of the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service, she provides strategic market information and market access solutions for Canadian companies looking to export, invest abroad, or develop innovation and R&D partnerships in the U.S. She also assists U.S. companies planning to establish or expand their operations in Canada.



Canada  
Consulate General of Canada in Boston  
Consulat général du Canada à Boston

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Neil Hamel  
Head, US Innovation and Venture HubE40  
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Neil Hamel is the Head of Innovation and Ventures in North America for Orsted. He has 15 years of experience in early-stage technology development, venture capital, and corporate innovation having spent time as a co-founder, early employee, advisor and investor with various startup companies, and as one of the first employees hired to help grow innovation and venture practices at 3 different corporations. Neil has degrees in Public Policy and Economics from Brown University.

Orsted



Carolyn A. Kirk  
Executive Director, Mass Tech Collaborative  
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Website: <https://masstech.org/>



Carolyn A. Kirk was selected by the Executive Committee of the Mass Tech Collaborative (Mass Tech) as the agency's executive director in February 2019. Mass Tech is a state economic development agency whose mission is to strengthen the tech & innovation economy across a variety of industries including advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, digital health and other emerging tech areas such as artificial intelligence, fintech, blue tech/marine tech, and robotics.



Kirk previously served as the Deputy Secretary in the cabinet level secretariat of Housing and Economic Development in the Administration of Governor Charlie Baker, and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, a role she held since the beginning of the Baker-Polito Administration in January 2015. As second-in-command, Kirk was responsible for overseeing all operational aspects of this approximately 1,000 person, billion dollar agency including IT, HR, Communications, Finance and Legal. In addition, she served in various leadership capacities, managed an economic development program portfolio, served alongside Lt. Gov. Polito as Vice Chair of the Seaport Economic Council, and tackled difficult assignments for the Administration.

Prior to her appointment to the Administration, in 2007 Kirk became the first woman popularly elected as Mayor of the City of Gloucester, going on to win three subsequent terms. With a strong mayor form of government, Kirk was responsible for all aspects of executive management of the City of Gloucester including public safety, public works, public health, community and economic development, and served as member of the elected School Committee.

Not only did Kirk lead the city through public health, infrastructure and natural disaster emergencies, Mayor Kirk pulled the city through the unpredictable challenges of the Great Recession through strong and disciplined fiscal management. Kirk's economic development plan focused on diversifying the local economy, traditionally focused on the commercial fishing industry, and emphasized community values and strengths which led to job creation and expansion of the commercial tax base. A key pillar of the city's economic plan was a focus on the blue economy.

Kirk's professional career spans more than 25 years and includes long-time experience as a management consultant, working with clients that included many of the Top 20 banks in the U.S. along with Fortune 500 companies.

She was raised in Clinton, N.Y., and moved to Massachusetts to attend college, graduating from Boston College.

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Molly Magee  
Executive Director  
Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC)  
Email: [mmagee@underseatech.org](mailto:mmagee@underseatech.org)  
Website: <https://www.underseatech.org/>



Molly Donohue Magee has a proven record of effective leadership of diverse and highly successful nonprofit, for-profit and government organizations. She is the Executive Director of the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium, a nonprofit organization focused on providing resources and relationships to accelerate the transition of undersea technology to market. UTIC is the Department of Navy Other Transaction Authority (OTA) consortium for innovative undersea and maritime technology. Ms. Magee is also the Executive Director of the Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA), a coalition of defense related businesses and organizations that is a catalyst for thought leadership and enables the development of critical defense technologies while facilitating economic and workforce development opportunities.



After completing a 30-year civilian career in the government, she started a woman-owned and managed small business focused on providing value-added engineering and financial management services to the Department of Defense. After two years, the business was acquired by another company. Her last assignment in the government was as the Chief Financial Officer for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI. Her government career included managing product assurance engineering for submarine systems prior to transitioning to senior leadership of the organization where, in addition to CFO, she served as the Director of Corporate Operations. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree and an undergraduate degree in Mathematics.

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Justin Manley

Founder

Just Innovation

Website: <https://www.justinnovationinc.com/>

Justin Manley is an innovative technologist and executive with experience in startup, public corporation, academic, and public sectors. Mr. Manley has been working with marine technology and robotics since 1990 and is a recognized leader in uncrewed systems development and operations. After professional roles at MIT, supporting NOAA and in the private sector Mr. Manley founded Just Innovation Inc. in 2015.

He supports a variety of clients with a focus on uncrewed and undersea systems. He is an advisor to Terradepth, an ocean data services startup, and a co-founder of Seahawk Robotics which is commercializing drones that fly, float, deploy payloads and dive.



Mr. Manley is extensively involved in the marine technology profession through a variety of leadership roles. He is a Senior Member of IEEE, a Life Member and President-Elect of the Marine Technology Society (MTS), a Fellow of the Institute for Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMAREST) and a founding member of Marine Education for Inspiration and Innovation (MATEII). He is dedicated to innovation, serving as a mentor to many startup companies and a judge for the Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health and ANA AVATAR XPRIZES. He holds two patents in uncrewed systems oversight and security.

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Anna Michel

Associate Scientist

National Deep Submergence Laboratory

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Email: [amichel@whoi.edu](mailto:amichel@whoi.edu)

Website: <https://www.whoi.edu/>

Anna Michel is an Associate Scientist in the Department of Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. She also serves as

the Chief Scientist for the National Deep Submergence Facility. Her research focuses on the development of new in situ sensors and sensing platforms for advancing our understanding of ocean chemistry in locations ranging from deep-sea hydrothermal vents to the coastal Arctic. Committed to educating the next generation of ocean engineers, Michel teaches in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program and has developed the GOES: Girls in Ocean Engineering and Science program for middle school girls. Michel received BS degrees in Chemical Engineering and Biology and an MS in Ocean Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has a PhD in Mechanical and Oceanographic Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program. Michel completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University as the MIRTHER Center Research and Teaching Fellow. Michel was a recipient of an NSF CAREER Award, the Arons Award, and a National Academies Gulf Research Fellowship.



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Stephen Piper  
Partner, Data and Technology Transformation  
IBM Consulting



Stephen Piper is a Partner in IBM Consulting specializing in Data Visualization solutions for Enterprise Clients. Stephen has more than 20 years of experience at IBM where he has held executive roles in Sales Operations and Information Technology. In addition to his role as Consulting Partner, Stephen is also proud to be the Senior State Executive of Rhode Island. In this capacity he helped to establish and now sits on the board of RIHUB, an incubator and accelerator for entrepreneurs in the heart of Providence



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Roger E. Race  
Director of Innovation, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies  
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Roger E. Race has years of oceanographic experience with such companies as Rolls Royce, BOT USA, and YSI. Currently, he is innovation director at Dartmouth Ocean Technologies which involves directing all phases of the research, planning, design, testing, and construction of technically challenging oceanographic projects. Mr. Race started and ran successfully two small businesses, which produced patented marine products for the Global Marine Market.

Mr. Race's more than 30 years of experience includes designing and bringing to market products for the marine and oceanographic industry. At Endeco Inc., as senior engineer Mr. Race created underwater designs that contributed to a three million dollar company. While Chief Engineer at Edson International Mr. Race created successful marine hardware designs sold worldwide by this five million dollar company. As a director at YSI, Mr. Race was responsible for design, construction, and project management of numerous marine product lines, including towbodies, floating platforms, ocean instruments, and cable and mooring systems. Mr. Race was also responsible for marketing these systems worldwide. At Rolls Royce, Mr. Race was program executive for advanced systems in the Naval Marine Group. Mr. Race holds degrees in both mechanical engineering and marine biology.



Roger Race is an avid sailor who loves nothing better than to be out on the water messing about in boats!

#### Select Technical Reports and Awards

R. Race, Technical paper on Real-Time Water Quality Data Collection from Floating Structures. Presented at Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Annual Meeting, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban, Argyll, United Kingdom (2002)

DAME First place Design award, METS 1991. Presented For excellent use of materials and unique construction.

R. Race, Paper presented at Oceanology 2010, London on "A towed antenna for real time communication from an unmanned underwater vehicle."

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Nick Rotker  
Chief Blue Tech Strategist  
MITRE Labs  
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**MITRE** | BlueTech Lab

Mr. Nick Rotker is Chief BlueTech Strategist of MITRE's Underwater and Acoustic Systems department in MITRE Labs. He leads MITRE's efforts in the BlueTech space including internal R&D and direct work programs. He has over 10 years of experience in areas of underwater acoustics, SONAR, signal processing, algorithm development, and distributed sensing systems.

His roles include business development and external outreach in BlueTech and facilitating collaboration across the government, industry, and academia stakeholders. He holds a BSEE from the University of Vermont, an MSEE from Tufts University.

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Ray Schmitt  
Professor, Founder and President/CEO  
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**Salient**

Ray Schmitt, is a Scientist Emeritus at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and President & Cofounder of both Neal Brown Ocean Sensors, Inc. and Salient Predictions, Inc. He holds a B.S. degree in Physics from Carnegie-Mellon University and a Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island.

He is a leading expert on ocean turbulence and the global water cycle. He has served on several National Academies of Science panels and the NASA Earth Sciences Advisory Committee. He is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union and was a J.S Guggenheim Fellow in 1997-1998. He recently worked with his sons to win \$250,000 in a rainfall forecasting contest for the US West by combining new insights into the ocean's role in the water cycle with artificial intelligence techniques (<https://www.whoi.edu/oceanus/feature/a-rainfall-forecast-worth-its-salt/>). This win led to the formation of Salient Predictions, Inc. to use ocean data for superior long-range weather forecasts.

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Vincent Sieben  
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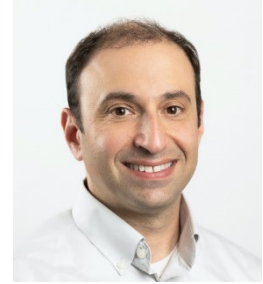
**DOT** Dartmouth Ocean  
Technologies Inc

Vincent Sieben is the CTO of Dartmouth Ocean Technologies Inc. He received his doctorate from the University of Alberta in 2009 and from 2009 to 2011, he conducted pioneering research on the first lab-on-a-chip nutrient and microbiology sensors for the deep ocean at the National Oceanography Center in Southampton, UK. For the next 7 years, Dr. Sieben worked with a talented team on the first commercialization of a lab-on-chip sensor in the oil and gas industry: Schlumberger's Maze™ SARA analysis.

He has actively published in the areas of microfabrication, lab-on-a-chip, optics, and in situ sensors for environmental monitoring. Dartmouth Ocean Technologies Inc. has recently been awarded a contract to deliver 15 phosphate lab-on-chip sensors and 10 eDNA samplers for 2022, one of the largest planned lab-on-chip deployments to date.

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Eric Siegel  
Executive in Residence  
Creative Destruction Labs (CDL) Oceans  
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Eric has worked at the intersection of ocean science, technical innovation, and international business for twenty years. He has held director and founder positions in global ocean technology companies leading teams in sales, marketing, business development, product development, and advanced manufacturing. Eric is a demonstrated growth leader with market depth, customer touch, and technical expertise, with extensive experience working in North America, Europe, the UK, and Asia. Eric is trained in physical oceanography, naval architecture and marine engineering, and earned an MBA with a focus on leadership, innovation, and global business. Eric is presently the Executive in Residence at the Ocean Startup Project, CDL Oceans, and the Ocean Frontier Institute, and is helping to lead a consortium of partners growing the ocean technology ecosystem in Canada. He sits on the board of directors at Sustainable Oceans Applied Research and Sail Nova Scotia.

When not helping ocean scientists and companies, Eric is an active sailor, having crossed both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on his small boats, and is now racing Bluenose Class Sloops with his family in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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Jeff Smith  
VP and General Manager  
Autonomous and Undersea Systems  
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Jeff Smith is the VP/GM for Autonomous and Undersea Systems at Saab, Inc. responsible for growing a new US division focused on UUVs, ROVs, USVs, and Autonomy. Prior to joining Saab, Jeff was a Chief Scientist for UUV Systems for BAE Systems FAST Labs. Jeff was the president and founder of Riptide Autonomous Solutions, a major market disruptor in the unmanned undersea vehicle (UUV) market and brought the company to acquisition by BAE Systems in 4 years. Jeff has spent 28 years supporting the US Navy through his industry roles at General Dynamics, Bluefin Robotics, Riptide, BAE Systems, and now Saab. In 2010, he was tapped by the PMS403 (now PMS 406) to chair a broad industry team to conduct a study of the supporting technology areas for Unmanned Maritime Vehicles in support of a planned UUV Master Plan update. Over the past several years, Jeff has also been selected as a subject matter expert to participate in numerous war games and study panels focused on the future of undersea warfare for Commander, Submarine Forces (COMSUBFOR), the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and the Office of Net Assessment (ONA). Jeff also holds patents in robotics, electro-optical systems, rapid prototyping, subsea battery safety systems, biomedical devices, and in a counter- sniper system, with additional patents pending. Jeff was formerly an advisor for Open Water Power, prior to their acquisition by L-3 Technologies. Jeff is also a member of the Board of Directors for Areté Associates.

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Tobias Stapleton, PhD, MBA  
Co-Founder & Managing Director  
Blue Innovation Symposium & Blue Venture Forum  
President, Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network  
Email: [toby@tobystapleton.com](mailto:toby@tobystapleton.com)  
Website: [www.blueinnovationsymposium.com](http://www.blueinnovationsymposium.com)



Dr. Tobias (Toby) Stapleton is a recognized leader in New England's Blue Economy ecosystem. He currently serves as the chair of the Blue Venture Forum, the first blue technology focused venture capital forum in the United States, President of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN) and Managing Director of the Blue Innovation Symposium.

Toby is an experienced executive and entrepreneur who has held senior leadership roles, including President/CEO and Executive Director, in a variety of private and non-profit organizations. He has advised leaders of dozens of blue technology companies, from start-ups to large multinational firms.



He has also held academic and senior leadership roles, as an Assistant Professor, Assistant Dean, Dean, and Assistant Vice Chancellor, at two universities. He serves on the editorial advisory board of Ocean News & Technology magazine, is a reviewer for the US Department of Energy's Wave Energy Converter SBIR programs and is a graduate of MIT's Venture Mentoring Service (VMS) training program. Toby holds a PhD and MA from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, an MBA from Suffolk University, and a BA from Bryant University.

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Shik Sundar  
VP Sales  
Sofar Ocean, Inc.  
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Website: [Sofar Ocean](http://Sofar Ocean)



Shik Sundar leads the global sales team at Sofar Ocean and is based out of San Francisco. He brings 15+ years of experience leading go-to-market at venture-backed startups including Pipefy (funded by SoftBank), SafetyCulture (funded by Tiger Global, \$1.3B current valuation), and Percolate (Sequoia Capital-funded, acquired by Seismic).



Shik began his career in healthcare technology, having co-founded Benefitter (acquired by HealthMarkets) and leading sales at Adreima (acquired by nThrive). Shik is an avid surfer and sailor and holds a degree in Neuroscience from Emory University.

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Whitney Tallarico  
Director  
Tech Bridge  
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Whitney Tallarico Tech Bridge Director, NavalX Department of Navy Whitney has a diverse background. She has a MA in International Development Studies, was a teacher for three years, released her first musical single in 2017, and spends most of her time trying to transfer concepts from one field to the next.



She serves as the National Tech Bridge Director for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy's Agility Cell, NavalX, and as a Program Manager for the Office of Naval Research. She specializes in identifying and cultivating projects, programs, and relationships with other federal, state, university, and private partners.

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Benjamin Van Buskirk

Director

NavalX

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CAPT Van Buskirk was born and raised in Menlo Park, CA. He attended the University of Arizona, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance in 1998 and his commission in January, 1999. He attended naval flight training in Pensacola, Florida, graduating with distinction in September, 2000. After advanced training in Coronado, CA he was qualified as an SH-60F/HH-60H Seahawk pilot. At sea, CAPT Van Buskirk served as Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of the "World Famous Golden Falcons" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 in Atsugi, Japan.



During this tour, his command earned his 3rd "Battle E" and the Secretary of Defense Phoenix award for the best maintenance practices in the Department of Defense. Prior to HSC-12, he served with the "Chargers" of HS-14 in Atsugi, Japan. During this tour he earned his second "Battle E" and participated in OPERATION TOMODACHI relief operations. Prior to arriving at HS-14, he served with Expeditionary Sea Combat Unit ONE as Director of Operations, where he flew multiple combat missions in support of JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE-PHILIPPINES. Prior to arriving at HS-14, he served with the "Dusty Dogs" of HS-7 in Jacksonville. During this tour he deployed in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, where his squadron earned the "Battle E". Ashore, he served as a Secretary of Defense Executive Fellow at VMware, Inc. in Palo Alto, CA, where he worked with senior executives on business strategy and technology innovation. He also served on the Joint Staff, J-3 Directorate at the National Military Command Center, Washington D.C. as Presidential Strike Advisor, and Assistant Deputy Director for Operations.

Prior to arriving at the NMCC, he served as Aide to Commander, Navy Region Hawaii in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Prior to that, he served as an FRS Instructor Pilot in Coronado, CA. Prior to assuming his role as Director of NavalX, CAPT Van Buskirk served as a founding member of the Strategic Warfighting Innovation Cell, OPNAV N7 Warfighting Development Directorate, Washington, D.C. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration (Defense Focus) from Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California, and has completed executive programs at Harvard Business School (Entrepreneurship) and University of Virginia's Darden School of Business (Finance, Marketing, and Business Strategy). CAPT Van Buskirk has over 3,000 flight hours in the SH/MH/HH-60 and holds numerous personal and unit level awards.

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Chris Van Metre

President and CEO

Advanced Technology International

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Chris Van Metre was born in Philadelphia, PA, the son of a career naval officer. He moved frequently with his family many times during his childhood starting school in Charleston, SC, and ultimately graduating from high school in Virginia Beach, VA. After high school, Chris attended the University of Notre Dame on a Naval ROTC scholarship and majored in Aerospace Engineering. After graduation, he was



commissioned an Ensign in the U. S. Navy and immediately began nuclear power and submarine initial training. After completion of this training, Chris reported to his first submarine duty assignment in Charleston, SC. It was during this assignment that he married the former Rose McEwan of Charleston, SC. He completed a 20-year Navy career that included four submarine assignments, including command of a fast attack submarine, as well as a variety of shore assignments focused on training and education.

After retiring from the Navy, Chris returned to the Lowcountry and joined the Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) in North Charleston, SC. Originally hired by ATI as a project manager in May 2005, Chris soon transitioned into a Business Development role, responsible for growing ATI's market reach and business portfolio.

In April 2012, he became the third President and CEO of the renamed Advanced Technology International (ATI). In this role, he oversees the strategic direction of ATI, which has grown to become the largest collaboration management services company in the US. ATI's mission is to lessen the burden of government by supporting federal government agencies, industry, and universities in the collaborative execution of our nation's most innovative research initiatives.

ATI leads R&D collaborations that cover a broad array of technology domains including armaments, biotechnology, electromagnetic spectrum, space technologies, advanced materials, shipbuilding, and ship repair. Building multi-disciplinary teams from the private sector (Fortune 500 companies to small businesses), federal agencies and universities to deliver prototype technologies is a prominent feature of these programs. Chris' experience includes strategic planning, technology development road-mapping and multi-organizational and multi-disciplinary consortia formation. His technical and engineering expertise has been invaluable in creating teams to focus R&D efforts in many areas. He has been the catalyst behind new alliances formed among stakeholder groups from industry, academia and the federal government to define and prioritize technology requirements and potential solutions, where robust collaboration among diverse groups was critical to a successful outcome. During his tenure at ATI, Chris has overseen two acquisitions and, in 2017, the sale of ATI from SCRA to Analytic Services (ANSER) in Falls Church, VA. As President and CEO, Chris has led the growth of ATI's research management portfolio from annual revenues of \$150 million to more than \$2 billion, with ATI repeatedly recognized as a South Carolina Best Places to Work.

Chris is very active in the local community, serving on the Lowcountry Heart Walk Executive Leadership team, as Chair of the Citadel's Engineering Leadership and Program Management Advisory Board, as the Regional Director of Officials for SC High School League Swimming and as a mentor for local young professionals. Chris and Rose are the incredibly proud parents of three children: Brian, a Navy Lieutenant currently serving as the Chief Engineer on USS MASON (DDG 87); Ashleigh, a Navy Lieutenant physician at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD; and Regan, a Navy Ensign in her final year of medical school. They are also serial dog rescuers and currently the parents of a rescue Great Dane and a rescue Great Dane mix.

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Jose Vasquez  
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Boston Engineering  
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Jose Vasquez's public sector career includes nearly 15 years leading technology development programs that advance capabilities for the Department of the First and First Responders. The commercialization of more than a dozen defense and security products reflects Jose's ability to combine product innovation and usability. While at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T), Jose drove rapid spiral technology development and worked closely with users to optimize new products for their operational requirements.



Jose served 20 years in the U.S. Navy in various engineering and weapons systems jobs that culminated as second in command of an AEGIS cruiser. Jose also operated, maintained, and fielded engineering, communications, and advanced computer systems during his U.S. Navy career.

He holds a B.S. degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, and an M.S. degree from the Naval Post Graduate School. While serving at DHS S&T he was awarded the 2014 Secretary of Homeland Security Excellence Award for fielding technologies.

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Nate Walton  
Founder and Principal  
Sachem Strategies  
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Nate Walton is the founder and principal of Sachem Strategies, a consulting firm that provides business development and government relations services. The firm's client focus are innovative firms in the defense, technology, financial services, and energy sectors. In his role leading Sachem, Nate has sought to advocate not just for individual businesses at the forefront of innovation, but also for the broader technology ecosystem in New England. In 2020, Governor Charlie Baker appointed Nate to serve on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, which works to promote business formation and growth in the Commonwealth's technology sector.

Nate has also served as a thought leader in the government innovation sector. He has organized coalitions within Congress to address challenges such as intellectual property threats, contract acquisition obstacles, and regulations that hinder the growth of emerging technologies. Nate has also partnered with industry leaders to design reform proposals that would more efficiently integrate innovative firms into the defense industrial base.

Before founding Sachem, Nate worked as a project manager and researcher at Harvard. While in this position, he managed a DOD grant with the university that designed innovative technology systems for measuring U.S. humanitarian and military interventions. Nate subsequently served as a defense advisor to a major presidential campaign, providing research and analysis on military affairs, and in several think tank roles focused on national security.

Nate holds a B.A. in political science from Bates College and a M.P.P. from Brown University. He is an avid sailor, and lives with his family in Marblehead, Mass.



**SACHEM**  
STRATEGIES

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Mike Wardlaw  
Program Officer  
Maritime Sensing, Office of Naval Research  
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Michael (Mike) J. Wardlaw was born in Greensboro N.C. in 1960, obtaining a BSEE in 1983 from North Carolina A&T State University (NCA&TSU) focusing on electromagnetics and a MSEE in 1992 from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in optical signal processing. Mike, in addition to being a senior engineer for the US Navy is a researcher and engineering instructor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Developing both passive and active photonic systems, Mike has held several leadership positions within the Department of Navy.



As head of the Advanced Systems Concepts Group and Director of Laser Technology, he significantly increased the Navy's activity in optical signal processing, laser-based sensors, high-energy laser weapons and

information theoretic design. His efforts helped reestablish of the Navy's High Energy Laser (HEL) program. Currently, Mike heads the Maritime Sensing Group at the Office of Naval Research (ONR), funding Naval S&T in acoustic and non-acoustic sensing technologies for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and mine warfare (MIW). Mike executes a large portfolio that includes Discovery and Invention (D&I) projects, Future Naval Capabilities (FNC's), and Innovative Naval Prototypes (INP's) bringing together performers and technology from across the entire government and commercial S&T community.

Presently, Mike is a program officer at ONR as well as an Engineering Instructor and Researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Mr. Wardlaw has received numerous Navy citations and awards in addition to being selected as year 2000 National Black Engineer of the Year for Outstanding Technical Contribution in Government. He holds several patents and has been active in the Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS), the Association of Old Crows (AOC), the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Optical Society of America (OSA) and the Society of Photographic Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE)

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Michael Wu

Executive Director

RISE

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Michael Wu is the Executive Director of the Resilient Infrastructure and Secure Energy (RISE) Consortium, the first private sector consortium dedicated to climate and energy action for the U.S. Department of Defense and Federal Government. He is also a Principal and Co-Founder at Converge Strategies, LLC, a consulting firm focused on the intersection of clean energy, resilience, and national security.

Michael previously served as a senior advisor for energy resilience and clean energy in the U.S. Air Force. In that role, he founded the Resilient Energy Demonstration Initiative (REDI), which develops and deploys innovative resilient energy technologies and business models for Air Force installations.

Previously, Michael founded the Defense Energy Program at the Truman National Security Project, which developed and advocated for policy supportive of the military's clean energy and energy resilience initiatives. Michael is a graduate of St. John's College and Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, and served as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps.

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