

Conference  
Program

# The Future of the Blue Economy

January 23-26, 2023



Brought to you by the Blue Venture Forum

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Trade Commissioner/ Déléguée commerciale  
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# Welcome to the 8th annual Blue Innovation Symposium



We are glad to be back in person for **The Blue Innovation Symposium '23**! 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, the team at 401 TechBridge, and Roger Race, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

Tobias (Toby) Stapleton, PhD, Co-Founder

## Blue Venture Forum

By the Industry, For the Industry

## Blue Innovation Symposium Flash Talk Sneak Peak Kick-off

**Monday January 23, 2023 — 4:30-6:30 PM**

**Innovate Newport - 513 Broadway, Newport, RI**

Kick off the Blue Venture Investment Summit and the Blue Innovation Symposium by joining us at Innovate Newport for a Sneak-Peak at up-and-coming BlueTech Startup companies.

Register to pitch, judge, or attend for free here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/491250141397>

Plenty of networking, appetizers and beverages.

## Blue Venture Investment Summit

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

**8:00AM-12:00PM**

**Roger Williams University, 1 Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI**

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**8:00 AM - 8:30 AM**     **Registration**

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**8:30 AM - 8:40 AM**     **Welcome and Introductions**

- Tobias Stapleton, Director, Blue Venture Forum
- Brian Williams, Chief of Staff, Roger Williams University

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**8:40 AM - 9:20 AM**     **Blue Technology Investing Today**

**Moderator**

- Don Grant, Executive Director, Ocean Start Up Project

**Panelists**

- Steven Fox, Partner, Propeller
- Anthony Bellafore, Investment Manager, Katapult
- Matt Stanley, Partner, Climate Tech Fund, BDC
- David Ford, Investor, Blue Angels

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**9:20 AM - 10:00 AM**     **Closing an investment round in today's investing environment**

**Moderator**

- Toby Stapleton, Director, Blue Venture Forum

**Panelists**

- Ian Estephan Owen, founder & CEO, Jaia Robotics
- Abigail Carrol, Board of Directors, BlueTrace
- Billy Thalheimer, CEO, REGENT Craft, Inc.
- Daylin Frantin, Co-Founder and CFO, FLUX Marine



**10:00 AM - 10:15 AM NETWORKING BREAK** .....

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**10:15 AM - 11:00 AM Deal Flow, the role of accelerator programs and tech transfer offices in creating Blue Technology Startups**

**Moderator:**

- Justin Manley, Just Innovation

**Panelists:**

- Eric Siegel, Executive in Residence, Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) Oceans
- Hope Hopkins, Head of Acceleration, MassChallenge
- Valerie Larkin, Technology Transfer Manager, Code 00T2, Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC)
- Allison Markova, Director, Technology Transfer, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)

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**11:00 AM - 11:40 PM The Future of Blue Tech Investment**

**Moderator**

- Julie Niedzwiecki, Managing Director, of DTN Ventures

**Panelists:**

- Shelley Hessian, Manager, Start-Up Yard at COVE (Center for Ocean Ventures & Entrepreneurship) Invest Nova Scotia
- Alissa Peterson, Co-Founder, SeaAhead
- Ted Janulis, Founder & Principal, Investible Oceans
- Adam de Sola Pool, Investor

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**11:40 AM - 12:00 PM Closing Remarks**

- Koty Sharp, PhD, Associate Professor, Biology, Marine Biology, & Environmental Science, Roger Williams University

# The Future of the Blue Economy

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023 – 1:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Newport Wyndham Hotel**

**240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI**

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**1:30 PM - 1:40 PM Welcome and Introductions**

- Tobias Stapleton, Director, Blue Venture Forum

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**1:40 PM - 2:30 PM Naval X Tech Bridge – Intentional innovation transitioning capability to the warfighter.**

**Moderator**

- Lee Silvestre, Naval X Northeast Tech Bridge Coordinator

**Panelists**

- Captain Casey Plew, Director of NavalX
- Dr. Patrick Cantwell, Deputy Director NavalX, Lead-Naval X Tech Bridges
- Dr. Vic Ricci, Chief Technology Officer, Naval Undersea Warfare Center
- Christian Cowan, Executive Director, University of Rhode Island Research Foundation

<b>2:30 PM - 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Case Study 401 Tech Bridge, USV Tech Scouting Experimentation</b> <b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linda Larsen, Programs &amp; Partnership Manager, 401 TechBridge</li> </ul> <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Steven Bordonaro, Chief Scientist, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport</li> <li>Dr. Christopher Verlinden, CTO, Applied Ocean Sciences</li> <li>Scott Carr, CEO, JASCO, Applied Sciences</li> <li>Michael Jones, Founder, SubSea Sail</li> <li>Dr. Kevin Rosa, Founder, Current Lab</li> </ul>
<b>3:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b>	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b> .....
<b>4:00 PM - 4:30 PM</b>	<b>Southern New England Ecosystem Panel</b> <b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Richard Soule, Vice President, Business Development, RI Commerce</li> </ul> <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeff Smith, Vice President &amp; General Manager, Autonomous &amp; Undersea Systems, Saab Inc.</li> <li>Drew Carey, Vice President of Americas, Venterra Group</li> <li>Perry Raso, Owner, Matunuck Oyster Farm</li> </ul>
<b>4:30 PM - 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Closing Speaker</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim Bellingham, Executive Director, Institute of Assured Autonomy, The Johns Hopkins University</li> </ul>
<b>5:00 PM - 6:30 PM</b>	<b>Opening Reception</b> <b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honorable Xaykham Khamsyvoravong, Mayor, Newport, RI</li> </ul>

# The Future of the Blue Economy

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

8:00 AM- 7:00 PM — Newport Wyndham Hotel

240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI

<b>8:00 AM - 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30 AM - 8:40 AM</b>	<b>Introductory Remarks &amp; Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobias Stapleton, Director, Blue Venture Forum</li> <li>Jeff Smith, VP and General Manager, Autonomous &amp; Undersea Systems, SAAB, Inc.</li> </ul>
<b>8:40 AM - 8:50 AM</b>	<b>Opening Remarks &amp; Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (By video)</li> <li>US Senator Jack Reed (By video)</li> <li>Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee (invited)</li> </ul>

<b>8:50 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>The Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Molly Donohue Magee, Executive Director, UTIC</li> </ul>
<b>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Opening Speakers: The Future of Offshore Wind</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arianna Baker, Program Analyst, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management</li> <li>• Laura Hastings, Workforce Development and Health and Safety Executive, The Business Network for Offshore Wind</li> </ul>
<b>9:30 AM - 10:15 AM</b>	<b>Accelerating Innovation in Marine Energy</b> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie Buck, Offshore Wind Supply Chain Manager, RI Commerce Corporation</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart Davies, CEO, ORPC</li> <li>• David Duquette, CEO, Littoral Power Systems</li> <li>• Kerry Strout Grantham, Researcher, Hydropower and Water Systems, Deployment Group, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)</li> <li>• Martin Wosnik, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Ocean Engineering, University of New Hampshire and the Atlantic Marine Energy Center</li> </ul>
<b>10:15 AM - 10:30 AM</b>	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b> .....
<b>10:30 AM - 11:15 AM</b>	<b>Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), Commercializing Technologies</b> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nate Walton, Founder &amp; Principal, Sachem Strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aneel Alvares, Director, Defense Engagement, Defense Innovation Unit</li> <li>• Ted Curley, President &amp; General Manager, exail Defense Systems, Inc.</li> <li>• Ben Kinnaman, CEO, Greensea Systems</li> <li>• Andrew Amigo, CEO, Blackburn Energy</li> </ul>
<b>11:15 PM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Flash Talks: Global Innovators and Entrepreneurs</b> <p><b>Facilitator</b></p> <p>Jim Hanlon, Board Member, Blue Venture Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boston Engineering Corp.</li> <li>• MITRE Labs</li> <li>• Sensor Technology</li> <li>• RTI</li> <li>• Green Sage Prebiotics, Inc.</li> <li>• Quantum Devices Corp.</li> <li>• Sensor Globe</li> <li>• Falco</li> <li>• Voltai</li> <li>• Rising Tide BioAcoustics</li> </ul>

<b>12:00 PM - 1:15 PM</b>	<b>Economic Update Luncheon: The Future of Rhode Island's Blue Economy</b> <b>In collaboration with the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce</b>
	<b>Facilitator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tobias Stapleton, Director, Blue Venture Forum</li> </ul> <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pete Rumsey, Chief Business Development Officer, URI Research Foundation</li> <li>• Bill Ash, Managing Director of Financial Services, RI Commerce</li> </ul>
<b>1:15 PM - 2:15 PM</b>	<b>From Ocean to Space, Getting Data out of the Ocean</b>
	<b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jose Vazquez, Director, Defense &amp; Security, Boston Engineering Corporation</li> </ul> <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capt. Michael Brasseur, Commodore, Task Force 59</li> <li>• Tommaso Melodia, PhD, co-founder &amp; CEO, Hydronet</li> <li>• Robert Hamilton, CEO, Woods Hole Group</li> <li>• David Shane, Director R&amp;D Business Development, Boston Engineering Corporation</li> </ul>
<b>2:15 PM - 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Flash Talks: Global Innovators and Entrepreneurs</b>
	<b>Facilitator</b> Erin Daily Donahue, Trade Commissioner, Defense & Ocean Technologies, The Consulate General of Canada in Boston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashored Inc.</li> <li>• Mabel Systems</li> <li>• Shift Environmental</li> <li>• IntegraSEE Research</li> <li>• Aurelia Upper Ocean Profiler</li> <li>• NZE</li> <li>• LaVanta Tech</li> <li>• Sea Change Resources</li> <li>• Systems Intelligence</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 PM - 3:30 PM</b>	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b> .....
<b>3:30 PM - 4:30 PM</b>	<b>Creating Opportunities in the Blue Economy</b>
	<b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanie Nadeau, CEO, Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE)</li> </ul> <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arnold Furlong, CEO, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies</li> <li>• Brien Buckman, Product Management, New Ventures, Palo Alto Research Center (PARC)</li> <li>• Jigger Herman, CEO, SeaTrac</li> <li>• Ben Garvey, President, Enginuity</li> </ul>

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**4:30 PM - 5:00 PM**     **Annual Awards Ceremony**

**MOTN's Annual Steve Withrow Award**

**2023 Awardee:** Cheryl Zimmerman, FarSounder

*Sponsored by Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN)*

**Rising Tide Awards** (Sponsored by Boston Engineering and ON&T)

**2023 Industry Awardee:** Greensea Systems

**2023 Organizational Awardee:** Center for Ocean Ventures & Entrepreneurship (COVE)

**2023 Individual Awardee:** Millicent Pitts, Ocean Exchange

*Sponsored by Boston Engineering Corp. & Ocean News and Technology*

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

## Optional Tours

**Wednesday, January 25 & Thursday, January 26, 2023**

Tours of the maritime bridge simulators at USMRC, Middletown, RI Free. Shuttles will be provided to bring attendees from the Wyndham to and from the USMRC facility.

Wednesday, 1/25/23 at 7:00 am. Returning to hotel by 8AM

Thursday, 1/26/23 at 7:00 am. Returning to hotel by 8AM

To join a tour text Chris Muise at 207-479-4795 or Email - [cmuise@seachange-resources.com](mailto:cmuise@seachange-resources.com)

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**

**9:00AM-1:00PM**

Optional Tour **(SOLD OUT)** – Port of New Bedford. Sponsored by the New Bedford Ocean Cluster.

For more information visit here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/visit-to-the-port-of-new-bedford-tickets-498674558027>

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iXblue and ECA Group join forces and become Exail. The company specializes in cutting-edge robotics, maritime, navigation, aerospace and photonics technologies. From the deep sea to outer space, Exail delivers unrivaled performance, reliability and safety, whatever the environment.

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expanding your capabilities



A banner for RTI's Maritime Autonomy Challenges. The background is a deep blue image of a fishing net submerged in the ocean. The RTI logo is in the top right corner. The title 'SOLVING Maritime Autonomy CHALLENGES' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, a statement reads: 'RTI is the expert in building advanced, autonomous maritime systems.' A QR code is located in the lower right, with the text 'SCAN TO LEARN MORE' underneath it.

**rti**

# SOLVING Maritime Autonomy CHALLENGES

RTI is the expert in building advanced, autonomous maritime systems.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

A banner for 'deepdive' in Nova Scotia. The background is a blue image of ocean waves. The 'deepdive' logo is on the left, with a small Canadian maple leaf above the 'i'. To the right of the logo is the text 'Ocean Technology Advantage'. Further right is the 'Invest Nova Scotia' logo. The main headline reads 'Nova Scotia, Canada is making waves.' Below this is a paragraph: 'We are home to the highest number of ocean tech companies in Canada. We are leading the research and commercial development of advanced ocean technologies. Come find out why.' Below the paragraph is the text 'Drop by our booth or visit deepdivens.ca'. A QR code is in the bottom right corner. On the left side, there is a vertical column of five white icons: a microscope, gears, a fish, an open book, and a factory.

**deepdive**

Ocean Technology Advantage

**Invest** NOVA SCOTIA

## Nova Scotia, Canada is making waves.

We are home to the highest number of ocean tech companies in Canada. We are leading the research and commercial development of advanced ocean technologies. Come find out why.

Drop by our booth or visit [deepdivens.ca](http://deepdivens.ca)



The background of the advertisement is a photograph of the Providence skyline at dusk. The city lights are visible, and the buildings are reflected in the water of the Providence River. In the foreground, a walkway with a railing runs along the river, and a few people can be seen walking. The overall tone is professional and inviting.

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ISLAND**  
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## WE ARE REDEFINING THE **IDEAL LIVE,** **WORK, AND PLAY** DESTINATION.

Our abundant natural resources, rich history and thriving cultural scenes, and robust business ecosystem make Rhode Island the optimal place to live, work, and play. Grow your ideas, your business, or your family in an idyllic Northeast location where innovation, diversity and community thrive. **How will you embrace Rhode Island's ocean of opportunities?**

The Ocean State has a resilient spirit, rising like the tide to new challenges. From finance to food services, Rhode Island's business-friendly climate and state support programs help companies of all sizes, across all sectors, grow and succeed. We root for our local companies' success and have seen firsthand the positive impact Ocean State innovators have on local, national and global economies.

**For more information visit [CommerceRI.com](http://CommerceRI.com)**

# Save the Date(s)!



Thursday, May 4, 2023

## Blue Venture Equipment Demo Day

Organized by Blue Venture Forum in partnership with the Herreshoff Museum and Roger Williams University

Come see Blue Tech in action off the docks, the beach or off a small boat at the Roger Williams sailing Center located in Bristol, RI. The purpose of the demo day is to provide Blue Tech Start-ups and seasoned Blue Tech equipment developers with a venue to show how their products operate. Any one from potential customers, investors, educators, or job seekers will be able to see these technologies work in real time in the marine environment.

Company exhibits, student poster sessions and panel discussions will take place in the upper level of the sailing center overlooking Narragansett Bay. There will be plenty of time for networking and learning more about what it takes to make Blue Tech work.

**Contact:** Maggie Merrill, Program Manager, Blue Venture Forum, for more information.

[maggie@blueventureforum.org](mailto:maggie@blueventureforum.org).

*Back by popular demand...*

## 9th Annual Blue Innovation Symposium

February 27, 28, 29, 2024

Wyndham Newport Hotel | 240 Aquidneck Ave., Middletown, RI

[info@blueventureforum.org](mailto:info@blueventureforum.org)





# Thank You

## To Our Speakers and Moderators



**Amigo, Andrew J.** is the Founder & CEO of Blackburn Energy, Inc., the manufacturer of RelGen®, a globally patented hybrid charging solution that is decarbonizing transportation. Prior to founding Blackburn, Andrew held a leadership role in Hartford Ventures and was General Counsel to First State Management where he led a successful JV with Berkshire Hathaway powered by several of his structured finance inventions. Prior to corporate law, Andrew spent several years negotiating at the United Nations on behalf of the NGO the International Criminal Defense Attorneys Association where he advocated for the rights of the accused and succeeded in the creation of an Office of Defense within International Criminal Court. Andrew clerked for the Constitutional Court of Slovenia during the end of the Yugoslav war, double majored in philosophy and criminal justice with graduate degrees in law and international economics. Andrew has over 20 issued patents ranging from medical devices, structured finance to Blackburn's Hybrid Charging System, RelGen. Andrew's background includes class A licensed professional driver with experience as a mechanic, welder, roofer, and mason. Andrew.

[amigo@blackburnenergy.com](mailto:amigo@blackburnenergy.com)



**Alvares, Col Aneel "Cramden"** is the Director of Defense Engagement, Air Force Lead, and Boston Lead at the Defense Innovation Unit. His military background includes experience as a B-1 pilot, terminal attack controller, and operational test and evaluation leader, with ground and air combat time in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In his current role, he leads DIU's Defense Engagement Team in framing new projects by leveraging commercial sector technologies to address priority DoD problems, while also working to engage the greater Boston and east coast innovation ecosystems.

[aalvares@diu.mil](mailto:aalvares@diu.mil)



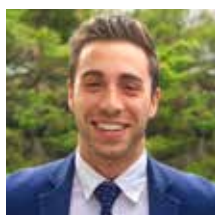
**Ash, Bill** serves as Interim President & COO of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. Bill also oversees the Rhode Island Industrial Facilities Corporation bond issuance (RIIFC), Rhode Island Industrial Recreation-Building Authority mortgage insurance (IRBA), Renewable Energy Fund (REF), State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) and the Small Business Loan Fund (SBLF) programs. Bill manages the administration, business and policy decisions of the various financial services programs to assure compliance with board actions and policies. Bill has more than 30 years' experience working with businesses as a lender, consultant and investor. Previously, Bill held positions as managing director of M & A at Oppenheimer & Co. and senior managing director of The Tron Group – a Boston-based turnaround and business advisory firm. He also managed two SBIC mezzanine funds where he was responsible for the fund management, capital calls and ultimate exit of over 30 investments and operating companies. During the mid-90s, Bill was the venture capital manager for the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation where he assisted companies in their strategic and financial planning, M&A, and raising equity and debt capital. Earlier in his career, Bill worked for various regional and national banks in ABL lending, workout, credit and field examination positions. Prior to a career in the finance arena, Bill was a deck officer with American Atlantic Lines, operating container ships around the world.

[William.ash@commerceri.com](mailto:William.ash@commerceri.com)



**Baker, Karen J.** is the Chief of BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP). She oversees the responsible development of renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf through conscientious planning, stakeholder engagement, comprehensive environmental analysis, and sound technical review. With more than 25 years combined private industry and Department of Defense civilian experience, Karen has served in a variety of leadership positions in strategic planning, energy and environmental

policy, and public affairs. Previously, she was the Regional Programs Director for the North Atlantic Division (NAD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) from 2019 to 2022. She was responsible for the development and execution of all military, civil works, environmental, interagency, and international programs in division's assigned area of operations in New England and mid-Atlantic states east of the Appalachian Mountains, Europe and Africa with construction placement exceeding \$5.0 billion and a workforce of over 3,000 civilian employees and service members. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Maryland (1990), a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University (2003), and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College (2010). [karen.baker@boem.gov](mailto:karen.baker@boem.gov)



**Bellafore, Anthony** is veteran VC investor with experience stemming from institutions such as LaunchCapital and Entrepreneur First. Additionally, he has significant experience as an early-stage operator, having been on the foundational team of GoingVC, where he grew the firm's customer base and annual revenue by 15x and 35x, respectively, in his time as COO. He has also been involved in building both venture scout networks and angel syndicates, and has led processes for private investments across a range of verticals, including ocean and climate, where he now focuses at Katapult. [anthony@katapult.vc](mailto:anthony@katapult.vc)



**Bellingham, James** is a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor and Executive Director, Johns Hopkins Institute for Assured Autonomy. Jim Bellingham is a pioneer in the development and use of small, high-performance autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs). He is Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Assured Autonomy in Baltimore, MD. Bellingham's work has resulted in a class of under robotics systems that are now widely used within the military, industry and science communities. He has been instrumental in innovations for ocean observing, especially multi-platform observation systems, and has spent considerable time at sea, leading two dozen AUV expeditions in locations across the Antarctic, North Atlantic, Mediterranean, South Pacific,

and Arctic. Bellingham concurrently serves as a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor in the Whiting School's Department of Mechanical Engineering and as a senior advisor in APL's Asymmetric Operations Sector, where he helps advance government and defense innovations for national security. Bellingham previously held leadership roles at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, as well as founding the Autonomous Underwater Vehicles Laboratory at MIT Sea Grant. He is a co-founder of Bluefin Robotics, a maker of AUVs. His honors include election to the National Academy of Engineering, the Navy Superior Public Service Award, and the Lockheed Martin Award for Ocean Science and Engineering, and the MIT Wallace Lectureship. Bellingham received a B.S., an M.S., and a Ph.D., in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [jbellingham@jhu.edu](mailto:jbellingham@jhu.edu)



**Brasseur, Captain Michael D.** is the Deputy Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 50A native of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Capt. Michael D. Brasseur graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1997 with degrees in Chemistry and Secondary Education. He was commissioned through the Naval R.O.T.C. program in May of 1997. Prior to joining DESRON 50, Brasseur served as Director, Naval Armaments Cooperation for the U.S. Mission to NATO. While at NATO, he co-founded and served as the first Director of NATO's "Start-up" the Maritime Unmanned Systems Innovation & Coordination Cell (MUSIC2). MUSIC2 is the key integrator and accelerator for the NATO MUS Initiative focused on enhancing the Alliance's capabilities through manned/unmanned teaming.

At sea, Brasseur commanded both USS Freedom (LCS 1) and USS Fort Worth (LCS 3), sailing Fort Worth home to San Diego from her maiden deployment to Southeast Asia. As a Lt., he commanded USS Whirlwind (PC 11) forward deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, he has served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer in USS Deyo (DD 989); Weapons and Executive Officer in USS Shamal (PC 13); Operations Officer in USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) and Executive Officer in USS Underwood (FFG 36).

Ashore, Brasseur served as the Director for Tactics and Doctrine Development (N5) at the Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC), Sea Combat Division in San Diego, CA. He also served as a Battle Watch Captain at NAVCENT in Bahrain. As a Lt., Brasseur served at Deep Blue and the White House Homeland Security Council in Washington, D.C.

He holds a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Management from the George Washington University and a Global Master of Arts in International Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Michael is fluent in Spanish, having attended the Defense Language Institute prior to completing the Command and Staff Course at the Argentine Naval War College in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

[Micheal.brasseur@me.navy.mil](mailto:Micheal.brasseur@me.navy.mil)



**Jamie Buck** Offshore Wind Supply Chain Manager Jamie Buck serves as the Offshore Wind Supply Chain Manager for the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

**Professional Background:** Jamie joins the Commerce team with a wide range of experience in the renewable energy sector. Most recently, Jamie performed contract work for the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, where she assisted with a variety of grants and special projects. Prior to this, Jamie worked for National Grid as an Associate Consultant in the Customer Energy Integration division. In this role, she managed the integration of utility scale distributed generation projects – namely solar fields – into Rhode Island's electrical grid.

**Education:** Jamie graduated with her Master's in Marine Affairs from The University of Rhode Island in 2019, having completed her thesis analyzing indicators of public acceptance of offshore wind energy development. During her time in graduate school, she was accepted into the URI Energy Fellows Program, which placed her in a year-long internship with The Office of Energy Resources (OER). Previously, she worked as a Research Assistant on a BOEM grant analyzing the effects of the Block Island Wind Farm on Rhode Island tourism and recreation activities.

Before moving to Rhode Island for graduate school, Jamie worked for Riverfront North Partnership, a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia doing land remediation work along post-industrialized riverfront areas. She got her Bachelor's in Environmental Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012. A native New Englander, Jamie is passionate about developing the region's blue economy.

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Prior to PARC, Brien supported the development of products and teams at Techstars, Joy Labs, Magic Leap, Mastercard, and Percolate, as well as founding, growing, and selling a networking company for founders. Separately, Brien has consulted for various startups and incubators and continues to coach Product leaders and entrepreneurs. You can find him on Twitter at [@BrienBuckman](https://twitter.com/BrienBuckman). [bbuckman@parc.com](mailto:bbuckman@parc.com)



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presenting visual data in interactive decision-making tools now widely used for offshore wind permitting, cable routing and site management. His firm, INSPIRE Environmental is currently leading marine assessments (EFH, fisheries, benthic, lobster, geological) for ten offshore wind projects with industry-leading technologies. Dr. Carey has been engaged in development of marine technology and innovative applications of data visualization throughout his career. He now leads the growth of a global offshore wind services company in the U.S. with a focus on workforce development in the supply chain, including INSPIRE Environmental. [Drew.carey@venterra-group.com](mailto:Drew.carey@venterra-group.com)



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**Cowan, Christian** 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

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**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.



**Duquette, David** is the CEO of Littoral Power Systems, Inc., a marine energy and hydropower technology developer and equipment manufacturer, and energy project sponsor in New Bedford, Massachusetts and Columbus, Ohio.

He is a management professional specializing in renewable energy and project finance. He was formerly a FINRA-registered Securities Representative. He actively serves as Principal Investigator on over \$21 million worth of water power-related federal and state R&D awards, including the U.S. Department of Energy Water Power Technologies Office, ARPA-E, Alaska Energy Authority, and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. He holds two water power patents. He is an affiliate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of Engineers Without Borders. He serves on the Board of Directors of The New England Marine Renewable Energy Collaborative, which is a §501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to fostering the development of ocean-based renewable energy. David holds an A.B. from Princeton University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. [dduquette@littoralpower.com](mailto:dduquette@littoralpower.com)



**Ford, David** is a founding member of the Blue Angels, an angel investment group targeting blue tech startups, managed by SeaAhead, whose charter is to foster the blue tech ecosystem. David is the lead investor and Chairman of BlueTrace,

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commercial) applications. David is an investor in other blue tech startups in addition to prior investments in green tech and energy. David is Chairman Emeritus of Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol, RI. In this role David is the lead for the Herreshoff Blue Tech Innovation Center (HBTIC), located on the Museum campus in Bristol. The charter of the HBTIC is to foster blue tech startups that need to design/build/test/demo/produce devices that operate in a marine environment.

David had a rewarding multi-decade career in the computer industry in the Boston area. He was a founder of multiple hi tech startups, including Hydra Computer Systems, Encore Computer and Orca Systems. David was an early pioneer in the development of massively parallel processors (MPPs) such as the Multimax and Gigamax. He led the development of high performance scalable file/storage systems and drove industry standards such as the Direct Access File System (DAFS). David drove the development and standardization of high performance interconnects such as the Virtual Interface (VI), Infiniband and Fibre Channel. He was an investor in three venture capital funds. [dave@thirdrail-tech.com](mailto:dave@thirdrail-tech.com)



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Arnold has been bringing innovative ideas to life in the sector for almost 40 years. Arnold enjoys growing a team to accomplish innovative things with novel ideas and successfully bring them to market. These ideas have ranged from automated CTD profiling systems from ships underway, sophisticated acoustic technologies and more currently with innovative towed platforms, microfluidic Lab-On-Chip sensors and eDNA samplers. Currently Arnold enjoys bringing the new stuff with significant novel capabilities and return on investment to the market, educating the market and watching the team grow. Just making a difference every day makes it fun! When asked his favorite statement about past successes – It's all about the people. [Arnold.furlong@dartmouthocean.com](mailto:Arnold.furlong@dartmouthocean.com)



**Garvey, Ben** is the founder and owner of Enginuity Inc, an engineering service firm based in Halifax, NS. Evolving from a sole proprietorship 20 years ago to over 50 staff today, Enginuity provides solutions to technical challenges across many industry verticals. From product design, analysis and testing, marine systems; to IoT, controls/robotics and automation integration. Enginuity staff are deeply engaged in all aspects of technical growth for hundreds of clients worldwide. Our reputation is based around delivering practical, right-sized solutions that intelligently and creatively bring extended value to our clients – from small family businesses to large multinationals. A Professional Mechanical Engineer by education, Ben is known for bringing a slightly different, curious and occasionally irreverent approach to tackling challenges. His early years were spent running the family charter business on the Halifax waterfront, followed by stints in Kings College (FYP), Dalhousie (Eng Dip) and then TUNS (B.Eng.); interspersed with many seasons working and delivering power and sailing vessels all over the North Atlantic. As an enthusiastic entrepreneur, Ben is also Co-Founder of FIVAMed; a medical device startup

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**Hamilton, Bob** is President of the Woods Hole Group. With Woods Hole Group since 1994, he was Coastal Engineer/Modeler, Business Unit Director, V.P. for Scientific Operations, and V.P. for Business Development. He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and a M.S.C.E. from the University of Delaware Center for Applied Coastal Research. He focuses on developing business relationships and multi-disciplinary project and client management. His market and contracting experience spans government agencies, architectural/engineering partners, offshore energy producers, private owners/developers, and power utilities, and non-profits. He has strong technical, analytical, and problem-solving skills combined with an effective leadership, communication, negotiation, and personnel management approach. He led the merger of CLS America and Horizon Marine into Woods Hole Group, and has full P&L responsibility



for the business. He supported due diligence for Woods Hole Group's acquisition by CLS in Toulouse, France, which diversified Woods Hole Group into sustainable fisheries and satellite telemetry applications for wildlife tracking and ocean science. His technical expertise is on solving problems related to shoreline erosion, coastal structures, water quality, environmental impact assessments/permitting, and the transport and dilution of thermal discharges and contaminants released into the marine environment. He also has multi-jurisdictional regulatory experience, including preparing EIS documents under NEPA. Recent projects are related to community climate change planning, ocean and coastal observations and analysis, salt marsh and wetland habitat restoration, environmental sampling and testing, dredged material management, shore protection, and environmental impact assessment.

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Ventures & Entrepreneurship (COVE), a \$30 million 70 tenant ocean technology hub in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Jim is a 40-year veteran of the tech industry, having lived and worked in Atlantic Canada, Ontario and New England. He has experience in the defence sector as well as the marine environmental monitoring field. He has held senior roles in engineering, marketing and general management. In May of 2012, Jim assumed the role of initial CEO of the Halifax Marine Research Institute, a not-for-profit company established to foster collaborative ocean research among universities, government labs and private companies. This organization later became what is now COVE – The Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship which Jim continued to lead until his retirement in the Fall of 2020. Jim is a graduate of Dalhousie University's Faculty of Engineering with a degree in electrical engineering. He also has an MBA in marketing from Saint Mary's University in Halifax and he is a registered professional engineer in Nova Scotia. In 2020 he was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering in recognition of his contributions to ocean technology in Canada. In June of 2022 Dalhousie University awarded Jim an Honorary Doctorate degree in recognition of his contributions to the global ocean economy. He serves on many Boards and Advisory Councils including the National Research Council of Canada's Ocean, Coastal

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**Hastings, Laura** is the The Business Network for Offshore Wind's Workforce Development and HSE director. She joined the Network in 2021 as director of Programs and Events, where she supported the Network's International

Offshore Wind Partnering Forum – the largest offshore wind conference in the Americas—as well as the Network's full list of Summits and educational webinars. In her current position, she is responsible for monitoring the development of workforce and HSE legal and regulatory requirements at federal, state, and local levels. She also engages with senior stakeholders on workforce and HSE matters while advocating, coordinating, and facilitating progress in the creation of industry best practices. Laura is a 2020 graduate of Leadership RI and completed the Regenerative Practitioner Series with the Regenes Institute in 2021. Laura currently lives and works in Rhode Island and enjoys hiking and fishing.

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**Herman, Jigger** is Co-Founder of SeaTrac, his third entrepreneurial collaboration with Buddy Duncan, whom he met in the hallways of MIT's naval architecture department as a graduate student 30 years ago. While at MIT, they spent time

helping Bill Koch's America's Cup campaign boat go faster before embarking on their own entrepreneurial path, launching, growing and ultimately selling Cutting Edge Inc. and then their second company, HomeLogic LLC. At SeaTrac, Jigger focuses on software and electronics, and the integration of the external payload systems into the platform. SeaTrac has developed proprietary navigation, battery management, mission planning, collision avoidance, and computer vision software. A graduate of Yale and MIT, between companies Jigger has also worked at iRobot, and his alma mater Phillips Academy Andover as a crew coach and computer science teacher. In his limited free time Jigger enjoys SUP surfing, skiing, and coaching open ocean crew newbies at Marblehead's Rock n Row Club.

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world. Start-Up Yard helps those start-ups accelerate their development through facilities, programs, incubation, funding, shared equipment, expertise and mentoring. Shelley has more than 30 years of experience working with small and medium-sized businesses. Before becoming manager of Start-Up Yard, Shelley was manager of programs and business acceleration at Invest Nova Scotia (formerly Innovacorp). She worked one-on-one with the organization's early stage technology client companies and led its many acceleration initiatives.

Invest Nova Scotia provides the services, programs, advice and other resources companies need at every stage as they grow their business in the province. Its venture capital fund has \$130 million in direct and indirect investment under management and of its 60 active investments, 10 are ocean technology companies. Shelley holds a bachelor of commerce and an MBA from Saint Mary's University and she is also a certified project management professional. shelley.hessian@investnovascotia.ca



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**Larkin, Valerie** is the Technology Transfer Manager at Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport. She negotiates and implements partnership agreements with industry, academic, and other non-federal organizations, so that these

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**Larsen, Linda** has a broad depth of experience building workforce and economic development programs in support of the defense sector and bluetech ecosystem. Within the University of Rhode Island Research

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annual event, Defense Innovation Days. She is a member of the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council, the Rhode Island Defense Economy Planning Commission, and the Rhode Island Governor's Workforce Board. 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. [mmagee@underseatech.org](mailto:mmagee@underseatech.org)



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leads and grows organizations by developing strategies to gain market confidence, drive investments, deliver profits and achieve operational success. She is an expert in the commercialization of emerging technologies, developing business strategies, and incubating new technology into mature revenue generating engines. Melanie is an accredited professional engineer graduating from the University of Waterloo, Canada and has an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. Her Board appointments have included international marine businesses, national industry associations, a professional regulatory board and a health-science foundation. She began her career serving in the Royal Canadian Navy where she harnessed her deep appreciation for our ocean.

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Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2007. He is an IEEE Fellow and recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award. He was named a College of Engineering Faculty Fellow in 2017 and received the Søren Buus Outstanding Research Award in 2018 - the highest research award in the College of Engineering at Northeastern University. Prof. Melodia is the Editor in Chief of Computer Networks, and an Area Editor for IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications. Prof. Melodia is the Director of Research for the Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research (PAWR) Project Office, a \$100M public-private partnership to establish 4 city-scale platforms for wireless research to advance the US wireless ecosystem in years to come. Prof. Melodia's research on modeling, optimization, and experimental evaluation of Internet-of-Things and wireless networked systems has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Air Force Research Laboratory the Office of Naval Research, DARPA, and the Army Research Laboratory, NASA, the NIH, the Department of Transportation, and by a vast consortium of US Industry. [melodia@ece.neu.edu](mailto:melodia@ece.neu.edu)



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and commercial sectors. Growing up in a coastal town in South Wales, UK, the first twelve years of his professional life were in the UK Royal Navy before joining Lockheed Martin as Programs Director. Ian then moved to Raytheon UK to lead their Naval Business before joining their US operations where he did a rotation at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. A two-year stint at Bluefin Robotics as Director of Programs leading the developing of large and medium size uncrewed underwater vehicles, was followed by four years at Sonos Inc., partnering with industry behemoths including IKEA, Amazon, and Apple to develop amazing products and launch them into market. Transitioning back into BlueTech space, Ian joined Aquabotix as VP Programs in 2018. Since founding Jaia in December 2020, with a mission to democratize aquatic data collection, Ian has built and led the Jaia team in raising \$2M in seed funding, secured customers in their target markets and delivering their first multivehicle JaiaBot system in October 2022 to the University of Delaware. [ian@jaia.tech](mailto:ian@jaia.tech)



**Peterson, Alissa** co-founded and leads SeaAhead, a venture studio platform for startups with technologies that enhance ocean health or sustainable ocean industries. From offshore renewable energy to sustainable seafood and a decarbonized maritime industry, cutting-edge ventures in the blue economy come to SeaAhead for investment, resources, and community. Prior to SeaAhead, Alissa was in leadership roles at two venture-backed startups, NanoSteel, an advanced materials company creating solutions for vehicle lightweighting and 3D printing, and Primus Power, a grid-scale energy storage company. Through her work, she has managed business development, strategic planning, product marketing, communications, government relations and M&A. Prior to her startup experience, Alissa was a consultant in McKinsey's Global Sustainability & Resource Productivity Practice where she served clients on cleantech growth strategy. Alissa holds a Master's in Mechanical Engineering from MIT and a BS in Civil Engineering from Duke University. [Alissa.peterson@sea-ahead.com](mailto:Alissa.peterson@sea-ahead.com)



**Plew, Captain Stephen "Casey"** Director, NavalX. He is 1997 graduate of Oregon State University, where he earned a B.S. degree in History prior to his commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. In October 2009, he completed his Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College while also a Gravelly (formerly Halsey IIIC) "Warrior-Scholar" studying Ballistic Missile Defense plans and operations. In 2016, he earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the Naval Post Graduate School. Captain Plew served in USS WADSWORTH (FFG 9), San Diego, CA, first as the Auxiliaries Officer prior to fleetting-up to assume duties as the Main Propulsion Assistant. He next reported to USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) in Yokosuka, Japan, as Navigator and Assistant Operations Officer. His initial shore tour was at Naval Special Warfare Unit Ten, Rota, Spain assigned as the Surface Operations Officer responsible for the safe deployment of the Mark V (5) Special Operations Craft and the Special Operations 11-meters Rigid Inflatable Boats. Captain Plew reported for his third sea tour as the Weapons Officer in USS DECATUR (DDG 73) prior to fleetting-up and assumed the duties as the Combat Systems Officer. His tour culminated in the completion of Flight Test Missile Twelve (FTM-12) in which USS DECATUR became the first Destroyer to successfully search, track, and engage a ballistic target with the Standard Missile Three (SM-3). [stephen.c.plew.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:stephen.c.plew.mil@us.navy.mil)



**Rosa, Kevin**, PhD is the founder and CEO of the ocean forecasting startup Current Lab. He holds degrees in physics and oceanography, with expertise in numerical fluid dynamics and high performance computing, and has served as an oceanographer at the Department of Energy and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center. [kevin@current-lab.com](mailto:kevin@current-lab.com)



**Rotker, Nick** is MITRE's Chief BlueTech Strategist and manages the Underwater and Acoustic Systems department within MITRE Labs. He leads MITRE's efforts to solve big challenges in the BlueTech space, including internal R&D, partnerships, and government work programs. He has experience developing and leading solutions in underwater acoustics, SONAR, signal processing, algorithm development, and distributed sensing systems. Nick facilitates maritime innovation-related collaboration across the government, industry, and academic stakeholders, and provides connection and mentorship to early-state entrepreneurs looking to accelerate the nation's Blue Economy. Nick is currently an executive board member and chair of the New England Chapter of the Marine Technology Society (MTS). Prior to MITRE, Nick worked as an Acoustic Research Scientist at Scientific Solutions, Inc. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Vermont and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tufts University.

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**Shane, David** is the Director of Business Development for Boston Engineering's Research and Development activities. He's also served as a Technical Program Manager, and in that capacity has managed programs with the US Navy (NAVES, NRL, NSW), DARPA, and commercial clients. Mr. Shane has technically supported various hydrodynamic technologies (including novel biomimetic geometries for improved lift and reduced drag, aftermarket hydrodynamic fairings for large unmanned snorkeling vessel stability, and deployed towed ISR systems), payload deployment technologies (including quick release payload system for underwater vehicles and fluid transfer quick disconnect systems for combat diver thermal management), and novel human robot interface (HRI) technologies (generation of interaction requirements through ontological characterization of the mission, operator, and robotic system). His additional project experience includes robotics, aerial

and underwater-deployed vessel-arresting technology, chemical demilitarization, hull-crawling vehicle systems, and energetically deployed payloads (Massachusetts explosives certified). David has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University. United States Coast Guard (USCG) reactive teams employing a helicopter released, energetically actuated small surface craft arresting system.



**Siegel, 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 serves as the Chief Innovation Officer at Canada's Ocean Frontier Institute and the Executive in Residence at the Creative Destruction Lab, as well as Strategic Advisor for international ocean technology companies. He was appointed to the UN Ocean Decade Technology & Innovation Informal Working Group and sits on the board of directors at Sustainable Oceans Applied Research and Sail Nova Scotia. Eric is trained in physical oceanography, naval architecture and marine engineering, and earned an MBA with a focus on leadership, innovation, and global business.

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**Silvestre, Lee** has decades of experience in the Defense sector, commercial technology markets, and non-profit space; with roles focused on technology innovation and transition, programmatic and operational execution, strategy development, and high performing teams. Currently Lee is the NavalX Northeast Tech Bridge Coordinator. She works with companies – from new starts, small businesses and entrepreneurs to nontraditional defense companies and large system integrators to progress solutions that contribute to Naval missions and support pressing needs of national defense. Her focus is on optimizing value through multiple use applications and complementary commercial and defense mission challenges. In her previous role, she stood up and managed the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium, a national organization that was awarded the Navy's undersea technology OTA (Other

Transaction Agreement) focused on undersea and maritime technology prototype projects. Prior to this, Lee was part of a small group of senior entrepreneurial leaders recruited to transform innovative light and color laboratory technology into product lines in a new start, profitable business called Performance Indicator. Earlier, Lee and her colleagues served in senior leadership roles in the \$6.2B Integrated Defense Systems Business in Raytheon where Lee was a Vice President leading Mission Innovation, the group chartered with identifying dual use applications for Raytheon's defense technologies. Lee's early career experience with KPMG Peat Marwick embedded her professionally within the maritime defense community where her passion for addressing issues of National Defense became a passion

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**Smith, Jeff** 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 29 years supporting the US Navy through his industry roles at General Dynamics, Bluefin Robotics, Riptide, BAE Systems, and now Saab. Jeff 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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**Smithers, Mark** – Chief Technology Officer and Co-founder, Boston Engineering Corporation

Mark Smithers, a founding member of Boston Engineering, leads the company's strategic development activities. He is the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and oversees the strategic business units and project management operation for the business. Mark combines his experience as a systems engineer and innovator with business expertise to help guide customers towards commercialization success.

Mark is skilled in creating and transforming innovation potential into innovation impact. He is the commercialization leader for Research and Development (R&D) activities for the company's technology/IP creations developed for the U.S. government through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Mark is the Principal Investigator (PI) for Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution Augmented Reality (AR), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Maritime UltraViolet Antifouling (MUVA) and Hull Crawler programs, and Navy Shipboard Metal Additive Manufacturing (eMAM). Mark leverages his role at Boston Engineering to drive the corporate mission to improve the way people work and live through innovative product design and novel engineering. He maintains a SECRET level security clearance.

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**Stanley, Matt** is a Partner in BDC Capital's ClimateTech Fund based in Canada and invests in Canadian ClimateTech companies that are working to accelerate the transition to a net zero and climate-resilient world. BDC's ClimateTech Fund

has CAD\$1.0 billion of committed capital across two funds and invests across the spectrum from seed to growth to transition technologies from lab-scale to commercial deployment. One of the key thematic areas for the fund is to invest in the emerging ocean technologies that can help transform the health and vitality of the planet's oceans and turn the tide to help solve the climate crisis. Matt has close to two decades of international experience working at the intersection of climate and sustainability, venture capital, corporate innovation, and strategy with BDC Capital (Canada), IKEA (Sweden, Netherlands), EY (England) and Deloitte (Canada), and founded SOMEWORKS, a boutique climate and sustainability advisory firm. Matt holds a Masters in Sustainability Leadership from the University of Cambridge (UK) and a Bachelors in Economics from Mount Allison University (Canada). [Matt.stanley@bdc.ca](mailto:Matt.stanley@bdc.ca)



**Raso, Perry** started digging littlenecks in Point Judith Pond when he was 12 years old. He grew up wild- harvesting shellfish, eel trapping, bull-raking clams and scuba diving for steamers. Before Perry Raso opened Matunuck Oyster Bar,

he was an oyster farmer. Raso has bachelors and master's degrees from URI in aquaculture and fisheries technology. He founded Matunuck Oyster Farm in 2002, on a seven-acre



commercial aquaculture lease, on Potter Pond in East Matunuck (South Kingstown), Rhode Island. Raso began his oyster farm with a grant from the Reed Aquaculture initiative. At this location, the shellfish nursery, grow-out and maintenance take place. Raso and his restaurant and oyster farm have received national acclaim in publications including the New York Times, National Geographic, USA Today, Yankee Magazine, the Boston Globe, and Chicago Tribune. His business was featured on the PBS show "Start Up". In 2016 he gave a TedX talk in Providence sharing his story and outlining the "Importance of Sustainable Aquaculture in Our Future". [perryraso@gmail.com](mailto:perryraso@gmail.com)



**Ricci, Dr. Vic** is Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Headquarters. Dr. Ricci is the senior advisor for Undersea Science and Technology (S&T) for NUWC Commander and Executive Director.

From 2015-2020, Dr. Ricci concurrently served as CTO Division Newport. Prior to this, Dr. Ricci was the Director of S&T for the Sensor and Sonar Systems Department at NUWC Newport. He also served as the Technical Manager for the SPARTAN ACTD, which provided operational unmanned surface vehicle capabilities to the warfighter. At NUWC, he has also served as Assistant Tomahawk Program Manager and Tomahawk Test and Evaluation Project Manager. Dr. Ricci holds BS in Aerospace Engineering from Syracuse University and an MS and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics from University of Rhode Island.

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**Rumsey, Pete** is the Chief Business Development Officer for the University of Rhode Island's Research Foundation. In that role, Pete also currently serves as a leader for the RI Blue Economy Partnership, helping to convene

statewide stakeholders to catalyze and communicate a winning Blue Economy strategy for the state. Pete serves as an adjunct professor in innovation and entrepreneurship with the URI College of Business, and Chairman of Leadership Rhode Island.

Pete joined URI with more than 30 years focused on entrepreneurship and innovation power systems, green & blue technology, and information technologies. Pete has proven global success as a founder and executive spanning early start-up, fortune 500, and turn-around organizations from \$0 to \$2B+ in revenues. Immediately prior to URI, Pete was the Director of the Rhode Island Innovation Campus

Initiative, responsible for overseeing the attraction of prospective participants, connecting stakeholders, and helping to administer the selection process. Pete served as a Captain in the United States Air Force Intelligence Command's Electronic Warfare Center (AFEWC) during Desert Storm and Desert Shield

Pete earned a BSEE with honors from Cornell University and has attended executive development programs at both Stanford and Harvard University. [Peter\\_rumsey@uri.edu](mailto:Peter_rumsey@uri.edu)



**Sharp, Koty** is an Associate Professor in Biology & Marine Biology at Roger Williams University, where she is the Interim Director of the RWU Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED).

She received her B.A. in Biology at Mount Holyoke College and her PhD from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego in 2006. She was a Marine Science Network Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce, FL in 2006-2008 and a Goelet Postdoctoral Fellow at Ocean Genome Legacy (New England Biolabs) in Ipswich, MA from 2008-2011. From 2011-2015, Koty was on the faculty at Eckerd College in Biology and Marine Science. At RWU, she also leads research program focused on marine animal microbiomes, with a focus on the Northern Star Coral, an emerging model organism and the newly designated state coral of Rhode Island. Koty was born and raised in coastal Delaware, and she has lived in California, Florida, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Her research has taken her to The Republic of Palau, Panama, Belize, California, and the Florida Keys. [ksharp@rwu.edu](mailto:ksharp@rwu.edu)



**Soule, Dick** is currently the VP of Business Development for RI Commerce focusing on the blue economy. His two primary sectors are Offshore Wind and Defense. Dick works with his talented team to help companies locate in the Ocean

state and ensure those companies who are here continue to thrive. Dick has a long history of working in the global media business having been the first global head of sales for YouTube. He's also worked in Asia relaunching MTV Asia. Dick has had senior management roles at Sony Pictures Entertainment, IDG, Samsung and CNN International. He attended Brown University where he received a BA in semiotics and is thrilled to be back in RI. Dick has 4 grown kids and a wife who's getting her masters in Aquaculture.

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**Stapleton, Dr. Tobias (Toby)** is a recognized leader in New England's Blue Economy ecosystem. He currently serves as the director of the Blue Venture Forum, the first blue technology focused venture capital forum in the United

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**Thalheimer, Billy** founded REGENT after years spent as an aerospace program manager, business development leader, and multidisciplinary aerospace engineer. He is experienced in leading all aspects of the aircraft development

process - from business case studies and first napkin sketches, through detailed design and integration; and culminating in flight test and operations. In two years at REGENT, Billy has overseen growth of the company to over 30 employees, growth of the commercial backlog to over \$7B in seaglider orders, and raised over \$30M from world-class investors like Founders Fund, Mark Cuban, Peter Thiel, and Hawaiian Airlines. During his time at Aurora Flight Sciences, Billy was responsible for developing new programs in vehicle design and technology maturation to support Aurora/Boeing's portfolio of future air mobility solutions. He additionally led technical program execution, financial management, and strategy for eVTOL aircraft programs; and worked as an air vehicle conceptual design engineer. [billy@regentcraft.com](mailto:billy@regentcraft.com)



**Vazquez, Jose** Director, Defense and Security, Boston Engineering. As Boston Engineering's director for Defense and Security, Jose leads the company's engineering design and development efforts for DoD programs. Jose's public

sector career includes 15 years leading technology development programs at the Office of Naval Research and Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate that fielded advanced technologies for Sailors and Marines, and the Nation's First Responders. Jose has

spearheaded the commercialization of more than a dozen product. Additionally, he served 20 years in the U.S. Navy in various engineering and combat systems jobs that culminated as second in command of an AEGIS cruiser. Jose 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, he was awarded the 2014 Secretary of Homeland Security Excellence Award for fielding technologies.

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**Walton, Nate** 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. 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.

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Dr. Wosnik received a B.S. equivalent in Mechanical Engineering from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, and a M.S. in Aerospace Engineering and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, both from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. [martin.wosnik@unh.edu](mailto:martin.wosnik@unh.edu)



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entrepreneur with over 30 years of experience starting and growing several technical and commercial businesses. She has led the FarSounder team in receiving numerous honors over the years, including the 2015 Tibbetts Award for Innovative and Outstanding Contribution to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. Her expertise has led her to lend her knowledge to various industry organizations including the Marine and Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN) and the New England Innovation Alliance, and she is a founding member of the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing (NERACOOS) where she was a Director as well as a member of the Executive Committee. [cheryl.zimmerman@farsounder.com](mailto:cheryl.zimmerman@farsounder.com)

### Note:

Try as we might, there are few speakers from whom we just were not able to obtain their bios or head shots in time for production of this document. Their participation and support of everything BLUE is greatly appreciated.



**See You at the Next  
Blue Innovation Symposium**  
February 27, 28, 29, 2024  
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