

Conference  
Program

# The Future of the Blue Economy



February 10-13, 2025




Brought to you by the Blue Venture Forum

# Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium

BLUE INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM  
PLATINUM SPONSOR

A united undersea and maritime industry voice,  
identifying and integrating undersea and maritime  
technology resources and opportunities, and providing  
the environment to collaborate on innovative solutions.



 @Underseatech

 [underseatech.org](http://underseatech.org)

 Undersea Technology  
Innovation Consortium

An influential voice in the  
Defense industry focused on:



**TECH**



**TALENT**



**INNOVATION**

**SENEDIA**

[www.senedia.org](http://www.senedia.org)



**A Big  
THANK YOU  
To Our Platinum  
Sponsors!**

**Canada** 

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

 **BOSTON  
ENGINEERING™**  
Imagine the Impact™

# Rising Tide Award Recipients



**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.

A Massachusetts native, Erin graduated from Clark University with a BA in Government and International Relations. Before joining the Trade Commissioner Service, she worked abroad at the Université de Versailles in France. Erin currently lives in Foxboro, MA with her husband and son.



**Molly Donohue Magee** is the Chief Executive Officer of SENEDIA, the alliance for Defense Tech, Talent, and Innovation. The alliance is a catalyst for thought leadership and enables the development of critical defense technologies while facilitating economic and workforce development opportunities. She created SENEDIA's nationally recognized annual event, Defense Innovation Days. She also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC), a nonprofit organization focused on providing resources to accelerate the transition of undersea technology to market. UTIC was awarded an Other Transaction Agreement from the Department of Navy for Undersea and Maritime Innovative Technology in June 2018. She has been 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, a billion dollar Department of Navy research and development activity. Her government career included managing product assurance engineering for submarine systems prior to transitioning to senior leadership of the organization where, in addition to Chief Financial Officer, she held the position of Director of Corporate Operations.



**William Lynn**, Bill serves as President and Executive Director of the Herreshoff Museum and the America's Cup Hall of Fame in Bristol, RI. He is leading the transformation of the Museum and the Hall of Fame from a relatively undiscovered treasure to a vibrant cultural and educational institution by redefining the museum's mission, developing new STEM-based educational programming, expanding the audience and donor base, and leading the Museum's pivot to blue innovation.

Prior to joining the museum, Bill spent almost three decades in the for-profit world of advertising agencies and marketing organizations building brands and driving revenue in both the physical and digital worlds. As a museum Director, Bill relies on his belief that you can go far if you know your audience, you have a great product, and you can tell a good story. In his eight years at HMM, membership and visitor traffic have increased significantly, revenue has doubled, and the Herreshoff STEM Education Program now serves over 1,000 future innovators.

Bill attended Tufts University where he led the sailing team to a national championship. He currently resides in Marblehead, MA where he has learned to keep his love for the Yankees quiet, and as a lifelong sailor and skier, he spends almost all of his free time either on the Atlantic Ocean or in the Green Mountains.



**Dan McKee** is the 76th Governor of the State of Rhode Island and a champion for the blue economy.

Under his leadership, Rhode Island has made significant strides in building a more resilient and sustainable economy, particularly by leveraging the state's rich coastal resources.

The Governor's administration is focused on promoting innovative industries that contribute to environmental conservation while creating high-quality jobs for Rhode Islanders.

The Governor has made significant blue economy investments at Quonset and in Galilee. He's worked to attract new blue economy businesses and solidified the state's position as a leader in offshore wind.

Governor McKee remains committed to building on Rhode Island's blue economy momentum through his Rhode Island 2030 Plan, a visionary policy document that charts a course for the state's bright future.

# Thank You!

## Founding Sponsor



DTN  
VENTURES

## Visionaries

Canada 

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



UNDERSEA TECHNOLOGY  
INNOVATION CONSORTIUM

UTIC

---

# Pioneers

---



**GREATER NEWPORT**  
*Chamber of Commerce*

---

# Navigators

---

**MITRE** | **BlueTech Lab**

**RHODE**  
**ISLAND**  
C O M M E R C E



# Seafarers





# Explorers



**Bryant University**

THE JOHN H. CHAFEE CENTER  
FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



**DOT** Dartmouth Ocean  
Technologies Inc

**JAA**  
ROBOTICS

MICRO IS MORE



NEW  
BEDFORD  
OCEAN  
CLUSTER

Connecting Our  
Maritime Businesses  
to the World

**Québec**   
Délégation  
Boston

**rti** Your systems.  
Working as one.

 **TELEDYNE**  
MARINE  
Everywhere you look™

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND

 **INDUSTRIES**



# Welcome

To Our 10th Annual  
**Blue Innovation Symposium**  
and Our 5th Semi-Annual  
**Blue Venture  
Investment Summit!**

Each year, a team of dedicated volunteers works hard to develop a conference that will showcase topics of interest to the industry, all while leaving room for you to network with leaders from a wide range of organizations. It hasn't always been easy, but we are proud of our accomplishments. And, whether you're looking to learn more about emerging industry trends or connect with potential strategic partners, customers, resource providers, or investors, we hope BIS '25 is a success for you.

We look forward to seeing you!  
Tobias (Toby) Stapleton, PhD, Co-Founder

**We want to thank our sponsors, without you this conference would not be possible!**  
**This Year's Co-Organizers include:**

**Erin Daily Donahue**  
Consulate General  
of Canada in Boston

**Roger Race**  
Dartmouth Ocean  
Technologies

**Justin Manley**  
Just Innovation

**Molly Magee**  
UTIC

**Lee Silvestre**  
US Naval Tech Bridge

**Gloria Berlanga**  
RI Commerce Corp

**Linda Larsen**  
401 Tech Bridge

**Jose Vasquez**  
Boston Engineering Corp.

**Martin Wosnik**  
Atlantic Marine  
Energy Center

**Nate Walton**  
Sachem Strategies

## **Blue Venture Forum**

By the Industry, For the Industry

## Optional Rhode Island Blue Economy Ecosystem Tours

Monday, February 10, 2025

Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown, RI

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Rhode Island Ecosystem Tour
9:00 AM	Pick Up participants at Wyndham
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Travel to Quonset Business Park (QBP)
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Receive informational briefing on QBP
1030 AM – 12:00 AM	Bus tour of QBP
12:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Travel to Brick Pizzeria, Unity Park, 500 Wood Street, Bristol
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch at Brick Pizzeria
1:45 PM – 3:45 PM	Tour Unity Park (including Flux Marine, VATN Systems, Deep Blue Composites)
3:45 PM	Travel to Roger Williams University (RWU)
4:00 PM – 6:30 PM	RWU Opening Event, See Below
6:30 PM	Return to Wyndham (attendees are invited to stay for the entire event, transportation to hotel will be provided)  Tour and transportation included in your BIS admission, but Registration required: <a href="https://blueventureforum.org/event/bis-2025-rhode-island-ecosystem-tour/">https://blueventureforum.org/event/bis-2025-rhode-island-ecosystem-tour/</a>

### Sponsor



4:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Opening Event and Networking Reception @Roger Williams University
4:00 PM – 4:50 PM	Roger Williams University Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED) Facilities Tour
5:00 PM – 5:50 PM	Keynote Speaker, Dr. Larry Feinberg, RWU Adjunct and Founder, KnipBio
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Reception including RWU Marine Biology Research Showcase, flash talks by RWU faculty  RWU Research Poster Session, Poster Presentation by Roger Williams University Students and Researchers  Optional transportation, from and to the Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown, is provided. If you are joining us for just the RWU event, admission is included, but registration is required: <a href="https://host.next.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=da25311d-cac0-426e-b820-aab90c19c5f3&amp;envId=p-RcSSmqAkAEKRDZtiuHuMng&amp;zone=usa">https://host.next.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=da25311d-cac0-426e-b820-aab90c19c5f3&amp;envId=p-RcSSmqAkAEKRDZtiuHuMng&amp;zone=usa</a>

# Blue Innovation Symposium Kick-off

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown, RI

---

**10:00 AM – 10:15 AM** **Opening Remarks**

- Tobias Stapleton, Blue Venture Forum
- 

**10:15 AM – 11:15 AM** **The Future of Blue Biotech, Panel Discussion**

Blue biotechnology is developing solutions in various fields such as food production, energy, medicine, aquaculture, and the chemical industry. This panel of experts will discuss the current advancements, challenges, and potential in this emerging sector of the blue economy.

**Moderator**

- Koty Sharp, Director, Center for Economic & Environmental Development, Associate Professor, Biology, Marine Biology, & Environmental Science, Roger Williams University

**Panelists**

- Christine Bolzan, Executive Director, Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute, Inc.
  - Mike Lomas, Senior Research Scientist, Bigelow Labs
  - Jonathan Henry, Senior Aquarist Manager Research, Marine Biological Laboratory
  - Dilan Jaunky, Founder and CTO, GC Lipid Tech
- 

**11:15 AM – 12:00 PM** **Blue Economy Investing Today, Panel Discussion**

There has been significant growth in the sector of blue economy investment. This panel of expert investors will explore emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges in blue economy investing.

**Moderator**

- Adam de Sola Pool, Investor

**Panelists**

- Steven Fox, Partner, Propeller
  - Jon Rotolo, Co-Founder, DTN Ventures
  - Beth Orcutt, Director of Research, Bigelow Labs
  - Jon Chait, IQT
  - Martin Sabarsky, CEO, Cellana, Inc.
- 

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM** **Lunch**

**1:00 PM – 1:45 PM** **Flashtalks-Global BlueTech Innovators and Entrepreneurs**

- LeVanta Tech Inc.
  - Argoneta
  - Blue Sonde Technologies
  - Diversican Corporation
  - Celerity Craft
  - ORPC
  - Bluemvmt
  - Abyss Robotics
  - Glas Ocean Electric
-

---

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM

### **Undersea Tech Innovation Through Collaboration, a Panel Discussion**

This panel will explore the various means of collaboration that can further undersea technology, including:

**Primes** – collaborating with small companies

**Small Business** – building the network to succeed

**Academia** – partnering with industry to advance technology

**Department of the Navy Undersea Tech OTA** – an enabling process for govt/industry/academia collaboration

**International** – cross country government collaboration

#### **Moderator**

- Molly Donohue Magee, CEO, Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC)

#### **Panelists**

- Tom Carroll, Program Manager, Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), Division Newport, Undersea Tech OTA
- Jason Dahl, Department Chair, Ocean Engineering, University of Rhode Island (URI)
- Trevor Kelly-Bissonnette, Director, International Cooperation, Naval Undersea Warfare Center
- Brian McKeon, Chief Technology Officer, MIKEL, Inc.
- Joe Ricci, Technical Director, Undersea Systems, Raytheon

---

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

### **Break**

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM

### **URI and the Future of the Blue Economy**

The University of Rhode Island (URI) plays a significant role in supporting the blue economy, leveraging its strengths in areas like marine science and engineering. This panel will discuss how URI will support critical research, drive innovation, and develop the skilled workforce that will be needed to support a sustainable blue economy in the Ocean State and beyond.

#### **Moderator**

- Tobias Stapleton, Director, Blue Venture Forum, Inc.

#### **Panelists**

- Paula Bontempi, Dean, Graduate School of Oceanography, URI
- Anthony Marchese, Dean, College of Engineering, URI

---

4:00 PM – 4:35 PM

### **Special Presentation: Boston Blue Canadian Technology Accelerator (CTA) Flashtalk Presentations**

- DevOcean
- Ocean Riot
- Virtual Marine
- Aquaband/Marecomms
- Rockland Scientific

4:35 PM – 5:00 PM

### Annual Rising Tide Award Ceremony

Join us as we recognize these individuals and organizations for their continued support of, and leadership within, the blue economy.

**Awardee** ★★

Molly Donohue Magee, UTIC

**Presenter**

Mark Smithers, Boston Engineering

**Awardee** ★★

Bill Lynn, Herreshoff Marine Museum

**Presenter**

Nate Walton, Sachem Strategies, and Vice Chair, Board, Blue Venture Forum, Inc.

**Awardee** ★★

Erin Daily Donahue, Consulate General of Canada in Boston

**Presenter**

Roger Race, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies, and member, Board, Blue Venture Forum, Inc.

**Sponsor**



5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

### Opening Reception

Welcome

Xaykham (“Xay”) Khamsyvovong, City Council, Newport, Rhode Island

# Blue Innovation Symposium

Wednesday, February 12

Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown, RI

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM – 9:15 AM

Opening Remarks

Introduction

Toby Stapleton, Blue Venture Forum, Inc.

Board Welcome

Jeff Smith, Chair, Board, Blue Venture Forum, Inc.

Welcome

Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Governor of Rhode Island  
Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Consul General of Canada in Boston

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM

**North Atlantic Ocean Alliance: US, UK and Canada Collaborating to develop the future of bluetech**

The North Atlantic Ocean Alliance reflects a partnership of global players that are committed to cooperating and collaborating to address opportunities, issues, and challenges relative to our shared ocean space that is utilized, enjoyed, governed, and protected by its surrounding constituencies. The alliance includes representation from maritime entities in U.S. East Coast, Canada, and the U.K.

**Moderator**

- Lee Silvestre, Coordinator, NavalX Tech Bridge

**Panelists**

- Dr. Vittorio Ricci, CTO, US Naval Undersea Warfare Center Headquarters (US)
- Dr. Kevin Forshaw, Director of Marine Business Development, University of Plymouth Marine Institute (UK)
- Philip Bishop, Head of Commercial Development, National Oceanography Centre (UK)
- Shelly Petten, Executive Director, Oceans Advance (CAN)

---

**10:00 AM – 10:45 AM Naval Reindustrialization: Maintaining Maritime Supremacy in the 21st Century****Moderator**

- Nate Walton, Founder and Principal, Sachem Strategies

**Panelists**

- Geoff Manchester, CTO, VATN Systems
- James Holmes, Professor, Naval War College
- Matthew Porat, Managing Director, Blackbird Capital Group
- Rylan Hamilton, CEO, Blue Water Autonomy

---

**10:45 AM – 11:15 AM Networking Break**

---

**11:15 AM – 12:00 PM Growing a Blue Tech Company: Resources, Demonstrations, and Experimentations****Moderator**

- Linda Larsen, Operations Manager, 401 Tech Bridge

**Panelists**

- Julie Kallfelz, Director, Northeast Tech Bridge and Engagement Officer, Naval Undersea Warfare Center
- Erik Brine, Advisor, 401 Tech Bridge
- Ben Garvey, CEO, Enginuity
- Joe Wheeler, CEO, Bluemvmt

---

**Sponsor**

---

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Economic Update Luncheon, Growing our Ocean Economy: A Fireside Chat with Liz Tanner, Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island**

Brought to you by the Blue Venture Forum and the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce for this annual Economic Update.

---

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Artificial Intelligence in Action**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a transformative technology for the blue economy, enabling advancements across various industries, from enhanced ocean monitoring to defense. This panel of experts will explore how AI is being deployed in these sectors.

**Moderator**

- Brian Kononchik, Director of Innovative Digital Technologies, Boston Engineering Corp.

**Panelists**

- David Segala, CEO, IDM Solutions, LLC
- Nick Rotker, Chief BlueTech Strategist, Mitre Corp
- David Rose, CEO, LOOKOUT
- Mark Roth, Partner, Spinnaker Venture Partners

---

**2:00 PM – 2:30 PM****Networking Break**

---

**2:30 PM – 3:00 PM****Flashtalks-Global Bluetech Innovators and Entrepreneurs**

- D-2 Incorporated
- SeaChange Fuels
- LOOKOUT
- Dartmouth Ocean Technologies
- UMass Dartmouth Offshore Wind Internship Program
- eSKI
- Orpheus Ocean

---

**3:00 PM – 3:45 PM****From Vision to Victory, developing successful proposals to bring innovations to life, a fireside chat with Kyle Woerner, Chief Scientist, Systems & Technology Research (STR)**

---

**3:45 PM – 4:30 PM****Marine Energy-Powering the Blue Economy**

Advancing the marine energy industry will be critical to developing long-term power solutions to blue/maritime economies and coastal communities. This panel of experts will discuss the work that is being done to research, support, and commercialize marine energy systems.

**Moderator**

- Martin Wosnik, Director, Atlantic Marine Energy Center (AMEC)

**Panelists**

- Stuart Davies, CEO, ORPC (Ocean Renewable Power Corp)
- Todd Amaral, JD, MBA, Adler Pollock & Sheehan
- Ravi Challa, Senior Scientist, Littoral Power Systems

---

**4:30 PM – 5:15 PM****AI and the Changing Nature of Warfare**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is significantly altering the nature of warfare. It enables faster decision-making, more precise targeting, and increased automation (e.g. drones). This panel of experts will explore the potential for these systems on the modern battlefield.

**Moderator**

- Justin Manley, Just Innovation

**Panelists**

- Nicholas Frazier, AI Division Director, US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) Force Modernization Center
- Chris Demchak, Professor, US Naval War College
- Gary Huntress, TFA Lead Engineer for AI/ML and Data Science, NUWC Division Newport



---

5:15 PM – 6:30 PM

**Closing Reception**

---

**Thursday, February 13**

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

**Port of New Bedford Ecosystem Tour, Hosted by the New Bedford Ocean Cluster**

This event really has become a “can’t miss” of the BIS and, this year, it includes a tour of the Port of New Bedford, New Bedford Research & Robotics, and UMass Dartmouth’s School of Marine & Science Technology (SMAST)

Admission is complimentary but, because of limited space, registration is required:

<https://secure.n boc.org/np/clients/newbedfordoceancluster/event.jsp?forwardedFromSecureDomain=1&event=90>

---

**Sponsor**



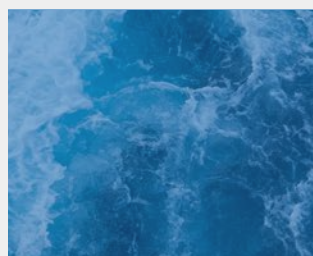
---

# Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium

## Platinum Sponsor



UNDERSEA TECHNOLOGY  
INNOVATION CONSORTIUM  
**UTIC**



The Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC) promotes the rapid development, prototyping, and commercialization of innovative undersea and maritime defense projects. The Consortium represents a united undersea and maritime industry voice, breaking down barriers to growth by identifying and integrating undersea and maritime technology resources and opportunities, and providing the environment to collaborate on innovative solutions.

## Connect with UTIC

 [undersea@underseatech.org](mailto:undersea@underseatech.org)

 Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium  
Two Corporate Place – Suite 203  
Middletown, RI 02842

 Undersea Technology  
Innovation Consortium

 @underseatech

 [underseatech.org](http://underseatech.org)



## **Strategic Maritime Domain Awareness**

Boston Engineering brings decades of experience working with federal agencies and defense contractors to accelerate vital military technologies. These technologies include advanced robotics for data collection and asset maintenance operations, along with digital solutions that provide data visualization, remote assistance, and sensory monitoring.

### **Profilers**

Low-cost, modular, configurable family of open-architecture maritime sondes and buoys that collect critical sensor data.

### **BIOSwimmer™**

Biomimetic UUV with multiple sensor capabilities that addresses data collection in critical environments.

### **MREG**

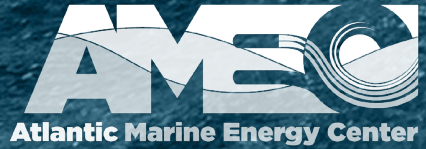
Mixed Reality Expert Guidance: An augmented reality enhanced video tool providing support to field technicians.

[www.boston-engineering.com](http://www.boston-engineering.com)

Imagine the Impact™

[info@boston-engineering.com](mailto:info@boston-engineering.com)

## POWERING THE BLUE ECONOMY



AMEC is a national marine energy center sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. A university-led consortium between the University of New Hampshire, Stony Brook University, Lehigh University, and the Coastal Studies Institute, we advance marine energy solutions to power the blue economy through interdisciplinary research and education, innovation, testing, industry engagement, and community outreach.



### Atlantic Marine Energy Center

[info@amec-us.org](mailto:info@amec-us.org) | [www.amec-us.org](http://www.amec-us.org) | [www.linkedin.com/company/amec-us](http://www.linkedin.com/company/amec-us)

sponsored by **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy  
WATER POWER TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE



# Impactful Public Relations Media Strategy Innovative Marketing

## Saluting Leaders in Blue Tech

**Richard Matthews**

[richard@mattmedia.com](mailto:richard@mattmedia.com)

MITRE | BlueTech Lab

# A NATIONAL RESOURCE FOR UNDERSEA TESTING, INNOVATION, AND COLLABORATION

MITRE's BlueTech Lab has one of the largest tanks in the region (106' x 40' x 19'7") outfitted with high quality camera and video capture systems and the ability to test autonomous vehicle communication and acoustic sensing systems.

Visit [bluetech.mitre.org](http://bluetech.mitre.org) for more information and to reserve the lab.



mechanical

electronics

robotics

FEA

**enginuity**  
impactful | creative | engineering

[enginuitypartners.com](http://enginuitypartners.com)



**SACHEM**  
STRATEGIES

**A PROVEN ADVOCATE FOR INNOVATORS**

Sachem Strategies is a leading government relations firm based in Boston and Washington, DC.

Since 2013, Sachem's mission has centered on providing visionary founders with a voice on Capitol Hill. We're proud to represent promising companies in the defense, energy, and financial services sectors.

Sachem's focus on innovation is not just a business model - it's our passion.

# Save the Date(s)!

Back by popular demand!

## **11th Annual Blue Innovation Symposium** *2026 Dates to be Announced soon!*

Wyndham Newport Hotel  
240 Aquidneck Ave., Middletown, RI  
[info@blueventureforum.org](mailto:info@blueventureforum.org)



# Thank You

## To Our Speakers and Moderators



**Todd D. Amaral** is a litigation associate at Adler Pollock & Sheehan where he assists clients with energy, environmental, and maritime issues, along with financial and business disputes.

Before joining AP&S, Todd interned with Judge Brian Stern of the Rhode Island Superior Court Business Calendar and in the offshore wind industry. He has written extensively on legal issues related to offshore wind, including project financing, permitting issues, maritime law, and jurisdiction on the Outer Continental Shelf. In addition, he has written about and presented on sustainable finance and ESG issues.

Todd received his J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law. He also has an M.B.A. from Providence College and a B.A. in International Relations from Boston University. He previously worked in banking and finance.



**Philip Bishop** Phil manages the innovation and commercial operations at the National Oceanography Centre - the UK's premier ocean and climate research institute. He brings leading-edge science and technology developments from the research world out into industry and wider society to ensure that they generate maximum impact.

Phil has worked in both the non-profit and commercial worlds and is a passionate advocate of using cross-sector collaboration to tackle global challenges. He spent many years working on offshore wind farms and other marine engineering projects around the world. He also sits on a number of advisory boards including as Vice Chair of the Marine Science & Technology Council for the Society of Maritime Industries.



**Paula Bontempi**, An alumna of the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography (Ph.D.'01) and a biological oceanographer for more than 25 years, Paula Bontempi became dean

of GSO in September, 2020. As dean, Bontempi has executive responsibility for the graduate school and its Narragansett Bay Campus, providing leadership, vision and oversight for its academic, research and public engagement activities.

Prior to joining GSO, Bontempi worked at NASA for 18 years as a program scientist for a large number of Earth observing satellite missions. She served as acting deputy director at NASA's Earth Science Division, Science Mission Directorate of NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. where she provided leadership, strategic direction and overall management for the agency's entire Earth science portfolio. Previous to her appointment as acting deputy director, Bontempi was a physical scientist and program manager for ocean biology and biogeochemistry at NASA Headquarters.

Before joining NASA, Bontempi was an assistant professor of oceanography in the University of Southern Mississippi's Department of Marine Sciences.

Bontempi served as a member of the NASA Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Independent Study Team, a co-Chair of the NASEM study on Future Directions for Southern Ocean and Antarctic Nearshore and Coastal Research, and on the Leidos Climate Change Strategic Council. She is a Fellow and President of The Oceanography Society.



**Christine Bolzan** leads the high-level strategy and operations of GMGI including research and education initiatives, with responsibility for organization's financial health and execution of its mission.

Oversees leadership team, business development and fundraising, finance, commercialization, risk management, education programming, human resources, technology, facilities, communications and Board stewardship.



**Erik G. Brine** is the CEO of Brackish Experts and a Strategic Advisor to 401 Tech Bridge at the University of Rhode Island Research Foundation where he helps them build stronger relationships, greater



collaboration, increased research, and innovative programs across the Rhode Island innovation ecosystem to leverage the interdisciplinary expertise needed to tackle national security challenges. He is also the Deputy Commander of the 514th Air Mobility Wing and a Councilman in Jamestown, RI.

Erik is formerly the founding Executive Director of the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology (NIUVT), a partnership between academia, industry, and government built to develop an innovative workforce and accelerate the research, development, and transition of key enabling technologies. There, over two years, he led that organization to grow from \$3 to \$37 million dollars in research funding while growing new programs and dramatically expanding partnerships. Prior to NIUVT he held leadership positions throughout the defense industry, the non-profit sector, federal government, and the military.

Most notably, Erik spent four and half years over two administrations at the White House as Defense Science and Technology Program Examiner in the National Security Division of the Office of Management and Budget providing budget and policy oversight for advanced technologies, industrial base, advanced manufacturing, innovation, and \$93 billion of annual defense research and development programs. His additional federal service includes positions in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs, as well as the State Department, and in the Senate in the office of Tim Kaine (D-VA). In the private sector, Erik led Security Cooperation and Partnership Programs for the Perduco Group, a Dayton-based Operations Research and Data Analytics solutions firm and founded Brackish Experts, a national security consulting and academic support services firm. In the nonprofit space, Erik co-founded Operation Encore: A Veteran Music Project, which trains, mentors, and facilitates professional opportunities for military and veteran singer-songwriters.

Over a 26-year military career, Colonel Erik Brine has flown C-5, C-17, and C-21 aircraft in over 50 countries including over 100 combat sorties over Iraq and Afghanistan and served at every level from the flight line to the Pentagon. He served three Secretaries of Defense in OSD Public Affairs, in the Secretary of the Air Force Offices for International Affairs and Legislative Liaison, and as the Air Force's Emergency Preparedness Liaison to the State of Rhode Island during the Covid-19 Pandemic. He continues to serve today as the Deputy Wing Commander of the 514th Air Mobility Wing at

Joint Base MDL leading over 2000 airmen and 22 reporting units.

Erik holds a Master's of Policy Management from Georgetown's McCourt School of Public Policy, a Master of Science in Logistics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, a Master's of Arts in Strategy and Security Studies from the Naval War College and a Bachelor's degree in Physics with a minor in Biology from Boston University as well as graduate certificates in Legislative Studies and Ethics and Emerging Military Technologies. Additionally, Erik remains heavily involved in veteran advocacy and his local community. He resides in Jamestown, RI with his wife and four children where he serves as an elected member of the Town Council in his second term.



**Tom Carroll**, Code 00X is currently a senior member of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Newport Strategic Planning Office.

Tom has more than 35 years of USW experience supporting the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and its predecessor organizations in acquisition and testing of complex undersea warfare systems in support of the fleet. Tom currently serves as the principle for the Undersea Technology OTA responsible of over \$600M of prototype awards to UTIC members since 2018.

Prior to this position in 00X, Tom served as the national Warfare Center Associate Director for Undersea Warfare Systems Workload Management, Engineering & Acquisition Policy where he was Executive Director's principal agent for leadership, guidance and policy development in the areas of workload management, acceptance, assignment and technical program policy.

Prior to joining NUWC HQ he served as deputy department head for the Ranges, Engineering and Analysis Department at Division Newport where he was responsible for over 250 government employees and over 500 contractors and managed an annual budget more than \$150M. During this tenure Tom lead a team of senior technical program managers and system engineers responsible for the acquisition of numerous USW systems including Southern California ASW Range (SOAR) and the Undersea Warfare Training Range (USWTR) located off the coast of Jacksonville, FL.

From 2003-2005, Tom served in the Pentagon on the DoN Infrastructure Analysis Team and supported OSD as

member of the Technical Joint Cross-Service Group (TJCSG) performing BRAC analysis. As member of the OSD Technical Team he provided technical expertise in the areas of surface, subsurface, research, development & acquisition, and test & evaluation.

From 1997-1999 Tom worked in DC supporting NAVSEA HQ before returning to Newport when he joined NUWC HQ staff performing infrastructure and workforce analysis including core equities, strategic sourcing and acquisition workforce initiatives.

His contributions to the Navy's USW mission and capabilities are nationally recognized. He is the recipient of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Civilian Career Service Award, Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence, DON Meritorious Civilian Service Awards and the NUWC Commander/Technical Director Award.



**Jon Chait** is an Investor and Company-Builder in High-Growth Innovative Ventures with In-Q-Tel ("IQT") which is one of the most prolific strategic venture capital investors in the US and worldwide.

IQT delivers global insights and investments that bridge the gap between the challenging technology needs of national interest, the constantly changing landscape of startups and tech innovation, and our shared VC community that helps to grow successful ventures. IQT's unique access to and deep understanding of these diverse and intersecting communities enables our ability to make strategic investments with high impact for U.S. government partners and our allies.



**Ravi Challa, PhD**, is a seasoned civil/ocean R&D engineer specializing in advancing numerically efficient renewable energy systems for marine hydrokinetic (MHK) energy projects. His expertise spans open

water deployment and laboratory testing of wave measurement and renewable energy devices, as well as numerical modeling of coupled fluid-structure interaction (FSI) problems utilizing advanced nonlinear Finite Element Analysis (FEA), Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH), and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) solvers.

Dr. Challa holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from India, alongside master's and doctoral degrees in ocean engineering from Oregon State University (OSU). His postdoctoral research experience focused on extending computational work in fluid and structural mechanics within

the marine environment, employing high-performance computing-based multi-physics and multi-scale systems methods. Additionally, he is an alumnus of the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), where his exploration into ocean engineering research began.

Driven by a profound concern for climate change, Dr. Challa transitioned his career towards offshore marine renewable energy after his OSU tenure. His dedication to overcoming challenges in this dynamic field propels him to innovate novel strategies. As a young researcher, he contributed to multidisciplinary DOE-sponsored projects as an R&D ocean engineer for a Sacramento-based renewable energy company.

Dr. Challa was pivotal in developing a cutting-edge simulation code framework for real-time deterministic sea wave prediction and wave-to-wire modeling of diverse wave energy conversion topologies. His primary focus lies in implementing advanced hydrodynamic modeling strategies to enhance the power output of wave energy converters, employing both experimental and numerical methodologies. He possesses extensive experience in offshore wave energy device testing, supporting model verification and validation, conducted in various settings, including wave tanks/laboratories (such as OSU Hinsdale Wave Research Lab and California Berkeley Towing Tank) and open water deployment campaigns in Santa Cruz (comprising deep and shallow water bathymetries).

With an ongoing commitment to innovation, Dr. Challa spearheads several challenging multi-disciplinary projects funded by the US DOE and ARPA-E. As a technical lead, he actively develops robust computational code frameworks for an AI-based Neural WEC project, aiming to revolutionize wave energy conversion. Additionally, he is deeply engaged in characterizing the potential of a tidal site for hydrokinetic energy production, furthering the advancement of renewable energy technologies.

With long-term aspirations in teaching and independent research, Dr. Challa aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of clean energy initiatives and pioneer innovative solutions to address challenges in the field. His overarching vision is to contribute towards achieving a carbon-neutral planet, recognizing the urgent need amidst the prevailing global warming and climate change discourse.



**Jason M. Dahl**, Professor and Department Chair of Ocean Engineering at the University of Rhode Island, holds a B.S. in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the Webb Institute and

a PhD in Ocean Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Dahl is an expert in experimental hydrodynamics and fluid-structure interactions, with extensive experience in scale model testing, flow-induced vibrations, and parameter estimation based on hydrodynamic measurements. His current research interests range from wave prediction for the control of floating offshore wind turbines to studying the hydrodynamic properties of morphable underwater vehicles to the use of AI methods for assisting computational fluid dynamics simulations. His research has been supported through the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology (NIUVT), and the U.S. Department of Energy.



**Stuart Davies** is focused on driving growth and profitability, at ORPC, through overseeing the commercial rollout of the company's demonstrated and proven technology in the U.S., Canada and Chile.

Prior to joining ORPC in 2020, Stuart was an investor in early stage companies with products and services that either reduce carbon emissions or improve the health of the environment. Stuart comes to ORPC with nearly two decades of experience at Sankaty Advisors where he served a Chief Investment Officer of Opportunistic Credit, Portfolio Manager, and member of the Investment Committee. While at Sankaty, Stuart was a director or an observer on the boards of dozens of companies in the energy, manufacturing, food, consumer product, retail and packaging industries. Stuart graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in Economics and from the MIT Sloan School of Management with an MBA. He is a member of Sloan's renewable energy finance round table.



**Dr. Chris C. Demchak** With degrees in engineering, economics, and comparative complex organization systems /political science, Chris is Grace Hopper Chair of Cyber Security and Senior Cyber Scholar,

CIPi, U.S. Naval War College. In publications and current research on cyberspace as a global, insecure, complex, conflict-prone "substrate," Demchak takes a socio-technical-economic systems approach comparatively with emerging technologies, adversaries' cyber/AI/ML campaigns, virtual

wargaming for strategic/organizational learning, and global/national/enterprise resilience against complex systems surprise. Articles of note include "China's Maxim (BGP Hijacking, 2018 and update 2021)", "Four Horsemen of AI" (2019), "Sea-hacking' Sun Tsu: Deception in Global AI/Cybered Conflict" (2021), "Achieving Systemic Resilience in a Great Systems Conflict Era" (2022), and "What Corrodes Cyber, Infects its Offspring"(2022 winter). Chapters of note include: "Cybered Conflict, Hybrid War, Informatization Wars" (2020), and "Cyber Competition to Cybered Conflict" (2020). Works in-progress of note include "Cyber Warfare and Navies" (co-edited). and "How to Run and Defend a Digital Democracy", "Will AI Salvage or Savage Cyber Security?", and "Great Systems Conflict: Cyber Westphalia, Warfare, and Collective Operational Resilience".



**Adam de Sola Pool**, Adam is an experienced VC and Angel investor, mentor, and entrepreneur, with 20 years of sector experience in cleantech & ocean technology companies. Adam has helped

to start more than 20 companies in the cleantech space. Most recently, Adam was the Special Advisor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and an Advisor to the PropellerVC fund (ocean tech). Currently, Adam as an Angel Investor is a Partner in the Blue Angels investment group (ocean technology), an affiliate member of Launchpad Ventures, and an Emeritus Partner of the Clean Energy Venture Group. Adam Mentors & Judges at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Ocean Impact Organization, & MassChallenge.

Formerly, a CEO and a venture capitalist Adam helped to start over twenty renewable energy and environmental companies in central Europe. He invested through Environmental Investment Partners which was funded by family and HNW investor money. Among the companies he helped to start was Continental Wind Partners (wind development, founding CEO), Organica (waste water), Detox (circular economy), GazVest (gas infrastructure). Adam has been presented the Cleantech Investment Forum Pioneer Prize for his work in central Europe. Among the accomplishments of Continental Wind Partners (CWP) was the planning and building of what was then Europe's largest onshore wind park (600 MW) in Romania. CWP was exited in 2022 to Squadron Energy of Australia for \$2.7 billion.

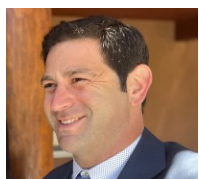
Additionally, as the former Chairman of the AmCham Energy

& Environment Committee he acted as a liaison between America and Poland on energy issues.

Prior to Adam's ocean and cleantech investment focus he was President of NFI Fortuna (1995-1997), Senior Banker of EBRD (1992-1995), and an associate in Salomon Brothers' M&A Department (1988-1992). Adam has a Masters Degree from the MIT Sloan School (1988), a BA from the University of Chicago (1981), and graduated from Phillips Academy at Andover (1976). Adam is a retired Chartered Financial Analyst.

Adam's recent aquaculture focused investments have included farm management tools and seafood product tracking technologies. In the High Seas Adam has invested in floating energy systems and autonomous surface and underwater vehicles. Among Adam's impact investments are companies restoring coral reefs and utilizing invasive species to create leather and food products.

Adam tries to inculcate a commitment to a triple bottom line (people, planet and profits) into all his work.



**Larry Feinberg PhD** is a serial bio-entrepreneur with nearly two decades of industrial microbiology experience ranging from alternative proteins for aquaculture, cellulosic biofuels, and the biogeochemistry of extremophiles. His track record demonstrates his passion for the convergence of early-stage biotechnology ventures, strain development, and commercial deployment.

As co-founder & CEO of venture-backed KnipBio for more than a decade, he oversaw a team that invented, developed, scaled and received multiple regulatory approvals for its first of kind functional single cell protein. Today, the company sells its proprietary JUV ingredient to finfish and shrimp farms globally.

A published thought leader in the space, author of multiple patents granted, winner of multiple startup competitions and grant awards, Larry is an established leader in the space. In addition to contemplating ways for biology to be harnessed for good, he is co-teaching Blue Entrepreneurship at Roger Williams University.



**Kevin Forshaw** is Director of Marine Business Development in the Marine Institute at the University of Plymouth. Focused on creating largescale, national and international projects to ensure a future of safe and sustainable future offshore operations. Currently building a consortium and the business case for an Advanced Marine Technology Hub in Plymouth to transform low-cost, persistence-presence, ocean observation, and developing industry-academic partnerships to optimise and de-risk the roll out of Floating Offshore Wind for UK Energy Security.

Former Chair of Maritime UK South West, and the Innovation Board of Plymouth and South Devon Freeport, with previous positions at the UK's National Oceanography Centre and the University of Southampton, Kevin has always been at the interface between Industry and Academia, securing many millions of pounds of UK and EC R&D funding for collaborative research for marine and maritime in areas including maritime cyber-security, Clean Maritime and Marine Autonomous System development. Kevin secured the industry support for Plymouth's Cyber-SHIP Lab, and set up the UK's Marine Robotic Innovation Centre at NOC, which was described as an example of best-practice of an Innovation Ecosystem and used as a case study by the OECD's Ocean Economy team. The outputs from which were presented at locations including the UN, and during the keynote at Ocean's Week Canada 2018.



**Steven Fox**, a partner with Propeller, is a member of the investment team, leads our entrepreneur-in-residence program and connects companies to technical assistance, coaching and resources.

Steve is an international business leader and investor experienced in climate, education and social enterprise. Steve was the CEO of Impact Global Education. At IGE, Steven managed offices in 13 countries around the world, working with academic institutions to facilitate experiential education and bolster social enterprises. Previously, Steve served as Managing Director at Sunizorro Investments in sub-Saharan Africa. At Sunizorro, Steve developed and managed early-stage investments in the renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture spaces.

Steve is an impact investor and philanthropist with interests in protecting the climate and oceans. He serves on the boards of Network of Engaged International Donors, the

Remmer Family Foundation, Friends of Pickman Wetlands, and the Real Oyster Cult.



**Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Frazier** is a US Army Special Forces officer assigned to USASOC's Force Modernization Center focused on operational autonomy efforts for the command. Throughout his 20+ year career, he has served in various special operations command and operational billets with multiple deployments throughout Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. He is a General Wayne A. Downing Scholar graduating from Georgetown University's Master of Science in Foreign Service program in 2019. Last year, Nick served as 2024 Nonresident Fellow with the Irregular Warfare Initiative, a joint production between Princeton's Empirical Studies of Conflict Project and Modern War Institute at West Point. He is currently an Executive MBA candidate at MIT Sloan.



**Ben Garvey** 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 solving challenges in infusion management; and Snap innovations Inc; a product company currently commercializing a line of marine connectors being sold in major chains like West Marine and Cabelas/Bass Pro. Contact Ben at [ben@enginuityinc.ca](mailto:ben@enginuityinc.ca).



**Rylan Hamilton** is the CEO of Blue Water Autonomy, an autonomous ship manufacturer for defense and commercial customers. Previously, Rylan was the Co-Founder and CEO of 6 River Systems (acquired by Shopify). In this role, he was responsible for all operations, engineering, manufacturing, supply chain, and corporate functions. Before 6RS, Rylan was a member of the leadership team at Kiva (now Amazon Robotics), leading the design and deployment organizations at Kiva and Amazon. He earned a B.S. in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University and M.B.A. with distinction from Harvard Business School in business administration. In 2019, Rylan was selected as a finalist for the New England EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award.



**Jonathan Henry**, As a scientist, I am broadly trained in the areas of developmental and molecular biology, and have been working in these fields for over 45 years. I have extensive experience working with both invertebrate and vertebrate aquatic model systems, and in developing new tools for rearing these animals for research purposes, which has been essential for supporting our research efforts. To this end we developed highly automated aquatic rack systems to accomplish large scale culture of marine organisms that incorporate automated assessment and adjustments of water quality along with automated feeding. I began this work at the University of Illinois and subsequently joined the Marine Biological Laboratory (in Woods Hole, MA) in 2021 to set up a more advanced automated aquatic facility. Construction of that facility was completed in 2023, when a new generation of automated aquatic systems was installed, and we have made a number of advancements since that time. These recirculating systems are designed to be self-sufficient and run for weeks at a time without much human interaction, saving labor and reducing the challenges of rearing marine animals. By providing optimal culture conditions, we have accelerated growth rates, reduced generation times, and increased reproductive output to produce large numbers of healthy animals. Furthermore, having a secure facility with self-contained, recirculating systems is essential for rearing non-native species and transgenic organisms that cannot be released into the external environment. We currently rear a number of different species in continuous (year-round) culture to support both the educational and research communities.



**James Holmes** holds the J. C. Wylie Chair of Maritime Strategy at the Naval War College and served on the faculty of the University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs. A former U.S. Navy surface-warfare officer, he was the last gunnery officer in history to fire a battleship's big guns in anger, during the first Gulf War in 1991. He earned the Naval War College Foundation Award in 1994, signifying the top graduate in his class. His books include *Red Star over the Pacific*, an Atlantic Monthly Best Book of 2010 and a fixture on the Navy Professional Reading List. General James Mattis deems him "troublesome."



**Gary Huntress, BSEE/MSEE/MSCIS**, Working at NUWC since 1986 following 7 years with the USAF. Having a strong software development background spanning supercomputers to embedded devices, I started to focus directly on AI/ML following the industry breakthroughs in 2012. I founded and lead the NUWC ML Community of Interest. With over 150 local members, we host ML lectures, training events, and infrastructure support for S&T as well as production ML efforts.



**Dr. Dilan Jaunky** holds a PhD in Cancer Biology from Concordia University and is the co-founder of GC Lipid Technologies. Passionate about the bioeconomy, he focuses on harnessing advanced genetic engineering to transform industrial byproducts into high-value products. Through GC Lipid Technologies, he strives to enhance efficiency, unlock new revenue streams, and drive innovation and sustainability in the bioindustry.



**Julie Kallfelz** started her career as an active duty officer in the Navy, then went on to work in the private sector in program management with companies ranging from tech start-ups to the Fortune 500. She joined the team at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport (NUWC DIVNPT) in 2014, working on the Advanced Processor Build (APB) program and then the MK48 MOD8 heavyweight torpedo upgrade to the guidance and control section. Julie is currently the Director of the Northeast Tech Bridge and Engagement Officer, in the Chief Technology Office (CTO) at NUWC DIVNPT.



**Trevor Kelly-Bissonnette** As the Director of International Cooperation for the NAVSEA Warfare Center's (WFC), Ms. Trevor Kelly-Bissonnette is the senior advisor to the Chief Technology Officers as well as Commanding Officer and Executive Director. She provides leadership and oversight of the WFC's International and Security Assistance Programs and provides coordination for international activities. As the Subject Matter Expert, Ms. Kelly-Bissonnette provides guidance on all matters pertaining to strategic planning, development, analysis/evaluation and execution of international cooperation agreements within the WFC's.

Prior to this post, Ms. Kelly-Bissonnette was the Technical Director/Program Manager for the NATO Naval Forces Sensor and Weapon Accuracy Check Sites (FORACS) Project, a multi-national NATO project with three naval test ranges in operation (in Greece, in Norway, and one affiliated in the U.S.) and of a project office located at NATO Headquarters, in Brussels.

Prior to the NATO post, Ms. Kelly-Bissonnette was the Head of the NUWC Division Newport Customer Advocacy Organization (CAO) charged with establishing the organizational model to manage customer satisfaction and relationships on a national level.

Ms. Kelly-Bissonnette holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics and a Master in Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island. She also has her certification from the Navy Post Graduate School in Advanced Acquisition Program Management, and Level III certifications in Systems Engineering and T&E.



**Brian Kononchik**, Director, Innovative Digital Technologies, With over 10 years of experience, Brian provides deep expertise in advanced technologies, such as IoT, AR, and ML/AI, all within industrial environments. He has designed and developed numerous solutions, from proof-of-concept to production, for leading enterprise organizations within the automotive and manufacturing industries, as well as in classified environments for the Department of Defense.



**Linda Larsen** is a proven leader in creating and executing projects and programs. She's passionate about innovation, workforce development, building strategic partnerships, and developing communities of practice. Linda earned a BS in Business Administration from Northeastern University, and a BS in Education from Rhode Island College. Linda also currently serves as the Chair of the RI Career and Technical Education Board of Trustees.



**Dr. Mike Lomas**, Director NCMA/CAI. Lomas holds a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Maryland at College Park. Lomas, a phytoplankton physiological ecologist, became a Senior Research Scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in the fall of 2012. His areas of research include understanding the physiology and ecology, and interactions between the two, of natural marine phytoplankton populations through directed experimentation and observation. Lomas was appointed as Director of the Provasoli-Guillard National Center for Marine Algae and Microbiota (NCMA) in January 2014, and the Bigelow Center for Algal Innovations in 2020. During his tenure, NCMA has expanded its capabilities as a biological resource for algae science and innovation. In particular, Lomas has spearheaded development of a regional project focused on the translation of algal research to use-inspired innovations – the Maine Algal Research Infrastructure and Accelerator (MARIA). This webinar will provide an overview of the MARIA project, its foci, activities and capabilities.



**Molly Donohue Magee** is the Chief Executive Officer of SENEDIA, the alliance for Defense Tech, Talent, and Innovation. The alliance is a catalyst for thought leadership and enables the development of critical defense technologies while facilitating economic and workforce development opportunities. She created SENEDIA's nationally recognized annual event, Defense Innovation Days. She also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC), a nonprofit organization focused on providing resources to accelerate the transition of undersea technology to market. UTIC was awarded an Other Transaction Agreement from the Department of Navy for Undersea and Maritime Innovative Technology in June 2018. She has been 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, a billion dollar Department of Navy research and development activity. Her government career included managing product assurance engineering for submarine systems prior to transitioning to senior leadership of the organization where, in addition to Chief Financial Officer, she held the position of Director of Corporate Operations.



**Geoff Manchester**, CTO, Vatn Systems, is an experienced mechanical engineer and mariner who was the Director of Engineering at Koop for a decade. While there, he led a team of engineers and developed some of the most advanced hydrofoiling electric boats in the world and a variety of other projects, including submersibles. Geoff has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Montana State University.



**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 diverse clients with a focus on robotics and ocean tech. Mr. Manley is a Senior Advisor to Oceanskind and a Venture Partner at AiiM Partners where he works to advance innovations for ocean impact. He is an advisor to numerous oceantech startups, and a co-founder of Seahawk Robotics which is commercializing patented drones for ocean operations.

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 Past-President of the Marine Technology Society (MTS), and a Fellow of the Institute for Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMAREST). Mr. Manley was a founding member of the

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Advisory Committee, currently a member of NOAA's Ocean Exploration Advisory Board, and Co-chair of the UN Ocean Decade Technology and Innovation Working Group. In 2025 he was appointed to the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies. He holds two patents in uncrewed systems oversight and security.



**Anthony J. Marchese** is the Dean of Engineering and the Vincent and Estelle Murphy Professor of Engineering at the University of Rhode Island. Marchese holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace

Engineering from Princeton University and B.S. and M.S. degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He was previously Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Colorado State University. His academic career has focused on providing access to student success in higher education and developing innovative energy solutions in response to societal challenges in climate, environment, and human health. His research has focused on increasing efficiency in internal combustion engines, developing transportation fuels from algae, designing clean burning biomass cookstoves for developing economies and mitigating methane emissions from the U.S. natural gas infrastructure. His work on methane emissions has been published in *Science*, *Nature Communications* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and has informed regulatory policy and industrial practices. From 2019 to 2021, he served as the Chair of the U.S. Sections of The Combustion Institute and is currently a Lead Author for the 2027 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Methodology Report on Short-lived Climate Forcers. He has previously held positions at Rowan University, United Technologies Research Center and NASA Glenn Research Center.



**Brian McKeon**, Chief Technology Officer joined MIKEL, which is a small woman-owned business, in April of 2018 and continues to be a senior level leader in government and industry executives with

38 years of experience in design, strategic planning, and execution within the Undersea Navy Enterprise. At the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) he was the leader of the largest department at NUWC with technical oversight of 48 major U.S. Navy programs (\$200M annually), 650 civilians and 250 contractors. Directed the U.S. Navy's full system life cycle support for the development, acquisition, and modernization of all U.S. Undersea Warfare weapons,

uncrewed vehicles, and defensive systems including expansion of technology advancements to other undersea warfare mission areas and multi-use applications. As the chief engineer for the Undersea Program Office, he directed the Navy's Torpedo S&T and RDT&E efforts. At Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) Dr. McKeon has provided strategic planning in uncrewed systems from a 25-person organization to a 300 person organization with sales over \$80M in three years. Brian has a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering and a MBA from the University of Rhode Island. He has an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.



**Beth Orcutt** has been the Vice President for Research (VPR) at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences since 2022. Building from an award-winning career in deep-sea science leadership, she guides

the bold strategic research priorities for the institution and relationships with external funders of over \$15M annually in sponsored and contracted research projects. She also energizes blue economy innovation in Maine, including overseeing innovation disclosures, patenting, and licensing processes for technology transfer at Bigelow Laboratory, as well as partnering with others in the State to advance ocean-based solutions.

Orcutt is also a globally-recognized expert in the environmental impacts of deep-sea mining. She's authored some of the most highly cited papers on understanding the ecosystem services provided in the deep sea by the microscopic realm of life. She is regularly invited to provide expert guidance to policy makers and scientific societies and is often quoted in the media on the topic. Orcutt is the Associate Director of the COBRA Crustal Ocean Biosphere Research Accelerator, spurring deep sea research to inform decision making.

Orcutt's expertise in deep-sea mining impacts stems from over a decade of leadership experience directing diverse and international teams of scientists and students in the exploration of the deep sea. Using seafloor exploration assets and deep-sea observatories, her research has focused on discovering how "deep biosphere" microscopic life thrives in strange environments and how their living impacts global processes. Orcutt is a co-founder and co-instructor of the Deep-Sea Expedition Leadership Master Class, which trains early career professionals on how to lead effective deep-



sea expeditions. At Bigelow Laboratory, she directs the Deep Biosphere Laboratory team. She has a Ph.D. in Marine Sciences from the University of Georgia. Having traveled far and wide for her research, Orcutt also has a passion for promoting cross-cultural justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity in ocean science and spearheaded reforms in this area at Bigelow Laboratory.



**Shelly Petten** is the Executive Director of Oceans Advance, the ocean technology cluster group in Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada. Shelly joined Oceans Advance in 2023 and brings over 20 years'

experience in the ocean technology sector from both private industry and the public sector to the organization. Prior to joining Oceans Advance, Shelly was a Sales Manager with Kraken Robotics and held previous roles as Marketing & Communications Manager with Kraken as well as with PanGeo Subsea. Throughout her career with industry and as an Economic Development Officer with the government of Newfoundland & Labrador, Shelly has fostered many professional relationships with partners throughout the province, country and the world and she is eager to continue to use those relationships to not only support the growth of the ocean technology sector in Newfoundland & Labrador, but also to position the province as the leader in this sector for technology development and ocean technology capacity.



**Matthew Porat** is a Managing Director at Blackbird Capital Group, "a mission-driven investment firm specializing in aerospace, defense, and adjacent industries." Prior to Blackbird, Matthew was a Partner and

Head of Investments for Green Eight Capital. Additionally, in 2022, Matthew was a Senior Investment Associate at Citadel, investing in semiconductor and industrial technology companies. Matthew previously covered Aerospace and Defense at Goldman Sachs in its Global Investment Research division. He began his career working for the US government in the Office of Development at the former US Information Agency, now called the Broadcasting Board of Governors. Matthew received a B.A. in International Politics and Economics from Middlebury College.



**Joe Ricci** is the undersea systems Technical Director for Raytheon's Naval Power mission area, where he leads the development of innovative technology and fosters strategic relationships to

enable Raytheon to deliver cutting-edge systems to the U.S. Navy. During his 30-year career at Raytheon, Joe has designed, developed, integrated, and delivered numerous advanced maritime surface and undersea systems. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Rhode Island and is a current member of the RI Science & Technology Advisory Council.



**Dr. Vittorio (Vic) Ricci**, As the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Headquarters, Dr. Vittorio (Vic) Ricci is the senior advisor for Undersea Science and

Technology (S&T) for the NAVSEA Warfare Centers (Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC)/Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC)) Commander and Executive Director. He is responsible for leading and focusing the realignment of the NUWC's efforts to revitalize basic and applied research in all areas of Undersea Warfare (USW), which includes Divisions, Newport and Keyport. As a nationally-recognized technical expert, Dr. Ricci guides the Center in all S&T matters and is responsible for shaping and implementing NUWC's overall strategy on technology matters, developing science and technology (S&T) roadmaps, and creating a vision to support strategic planning initiatives for the Command. He is also responsible for communicating NUWC's technical vision with a wide range of stakeholders, including military, government, industry, and academia. Dr. Ricci also serves as the USW member of the Navy's Novel Modernization Team.

For five years leading up to the current position, Dr. Ricci concurrently served as CTO at the NUWC HQ and Division, Newport, which further expanded his responsibilities to support Division Newport, where he advised the Technical Director on all matters related to S&T. He developed the Division's investment portfolio to focus on critical research and shape the workforce of the future for USW. Dr. Ricci led the realignment and stand up of unique CTO functions at NUWC HQ and Division Newport.

Prior to taking on the role of CTO, Dr. Ricci assumed collateral duties as the Technical Project Manager for the NUWC Undersea Distributed Networked Systems strategic initiative as part of the NUWC Technical Director's Technical Grand Challenge, impacting the technical direction for multiple warfare centers and thousands of Navy civilian personnel.

Dr. Ricci had previously served as the Director of Science &

Technology for the Sensors and Sonar Systems Department and as the Technical Manager for the SPARTAN Scout Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD), which provided unmanned surface vehicles (USV) with operational mission capabilities in force protection, antisubmarine warfare, mine warfare, and precision engagement to the warfighter.

In 2003, the ACTD joined the Global War On Terror and deployed the U.S. Navy's first-ever operational USV to support missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In November 2004 and April 2005, SPARTAN completed the U.S. Navy's first-ever USV live-fire tests at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland with a .50 cal machine gun. The technology development subsequently transitioned to the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship program. Dr. Ricci received the 2004 ACTD Technical Manager of the Year award from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Advanced Systems and Concepts.

As Program Manager for the SPARTAN USV initiative at NUWC Division, Newport, Dr. Ricci led the development efforts of a government/industry team and was responsible for development of system requirements and concept of operations for USVs. He has served as Assistant NUWC Tomahawk Program Manager and as Project Manager for the NUWC Tomahawk Test and Evaluation Project.

Dr. Ricci is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2022 University of Rhode Island College of Engineering Distinguished Achievement Award, the NDIA 2020 VADM Charles B. Martell-David Bushnell Award, and the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Dr. Ricci holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Syracuse University as well as a Master of Science degree and a Doctorate degree in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics from the University of Rhode Island.



**David Rose** is a MIT lecturer, inventor, and five-time entrepreneur. His latest book, SuperSight, offers a compelling roadmap for “wearable AI”, the next wave of human-computer interaction. David was VP of Vision Technology at Warby Parker where he created their award-winning virtual try-on app. His home, filled with “Enchanted Objects” was featured by the New York Times including a Google Earth coffee table that responds to gesture, magical pill bottles, and a doorbell reminiscent of Mrs. Weasley’s clock that rings when a family member is on

their way home. He even got John Stewart to belly laugh when he was a guest on The Daily Show! David’s products are featured in the New York Museum of Modern Art, covered in The New York Times, WIRED, and The Economist, and parodied on The Colbert Report. Now, at LOOKOUT, David is using augmented reality and AI to create the future of marine navigation.



**Mark Roth** is a serial high-tech entrepreneur and co-founder of ScaleUp Labs, an Applied AI venture studio. Mark has over 20 years of experience as founder of venture based start-ups creating value for stakeholders, providing leadership on new product development, innovation management, and business origination.

Mark is focused on identifying and supporting the development of market-first Applied-AI startups in underserved international markets in combination with ScaleUp Labs Venture Studio originations to provide real-world solutions to pressing business problems. He aims to provide superior investment opportunities with faster returns for investors, founders and stakeholders.

His vision is to establish ScaleUp Labs as the go-to hub for next-generation AI startups that redefine industries and set benchmarks for innovation.



**Nick Rotker** 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-stage entrepreneurs looking to accelerate the nations 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. Contact Nick at [nrotker@mitre.org](mailto:nrotker@mitre.org)



**Jon Rotolo** has founded multiple asset management companies over the past two decades which have cumulatively managed over \$8 billion of capital. As a manager he has overseen teams which have made nearly seventy portfolio company investments and executed hundreds of follow on acquisitions. As an investor he has held board seats across multiple industries including telecom, media, technology, renewable resources, infrastructure and healthcare. Currently Jon serves on the Board of Concord, the Board of Managers of the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research, and is an officer of LSJ Charitable Corporation. Mr. Rotolo is a graduate of Hamilton College, Boston University's Questrom School of Business and Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business.



**Martin Sabarsky** is a seasoned executive with extensive experience in the industrial biotechnology and renewable energy sectors. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer at Cellana, Inc., a leading developer of algae-based bioproducts. Under his leadership, Cellana has advanced the pre-commercial development of sustainable algae-derived products for high-value nutrition applications as well as commodity animal feed and biofuels applications, and has recently signed an agreement to acquire PhytoSmart. Prior to joining Cellana, Martin held key positions at Verenum Corp. (formerly known as Diversa Corp. (Nasdaq: DVSA)), where he was instrumental in strategic planning, financings, and corporate development. He began his career as a transactional attorney at Latham & Watkins LLP and later worked as an investment banker at Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., focusing on mergers and acquisitions and financings. He is a former Chairman of the Board of the Algae Biomass Organization and currently serves as a board member for several organizations. Martin holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.B.A. from The Rady School of Management at UC San Diego, and a B.A. with a double major in Biology and Political Science from Brown University.



**Dr. David Segala** will provide insights on bridging the gap between AI and business. He will start with an overview of "What is AI," highlighting the fundamental differences between AI and machine learning through conceptual examples. He will then discuss how to adopt and develop AI solutions, how to measure success and communicate metrics from both technical and non-technical perspectives, and the role of IT in data science

and AI. He will emphasize the importance of avoiding the development of custom AI solutions in isolation to ensure that proofs of concept successfully transition out of the valley of death.

Dr. David Segala is a seasoned leader in artificial intelligence and machine learning with over 20 years of experience developing AI solutions across the Machine Learning Operations pipeline. As Founder and CEO of IDM Solutions, he spearheads AI/ML initiatives and data strategies that drive organizational performance and revenue growth. He earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics from the University of Rhode Island, where he developed an unsupervised machine learning method for analyzing complex system dynamics. He applied this technology at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), advancing system identification and control of unmanned systems, and deploying path planning algorithms on ONR UUVs.

After leaving the NUWC, Dr. Segala served as Principal Data Scientist at a private company where he led all the development and integration of machine learning solutions for maritime hazard assessment models. He founded IDM Solutions 4 years ago which has seen 2-3x growth year-over-year. Initially, IDM Solutions primary focus markets were healthcare, retail, and agriculture developing, integrating, and deploying bespoke AI/ML models. Over the past 2 years, Dr. Segala has refocused the company's efforts across the DOD with US Airforce, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and US Navy customers. IDM Solutions delivers proven results in data strategy, bespoke AI solutions, knowledge management, and advanced analytics/visualization tools. Dr. Segala served 8 years in the US Navy reserves with his last billet as deputy department head for technology assessment with an Office of Naval Intelligence Unit and as a collateral duty was MILDET to the Gravely group at the Naval War College. Dr. Segala holds 1 patent, 1 magazine article in undersea warfare, and over 25+ journal/conference papers.



**Dr. Koty Sharp** is the Director of CEED and an Associate Professor in Biology, Marine Biology, & Environmental Science at Roger Williams University. 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 has formerly held positions with the Smithsonian Institution, New England Biolabs/ Ocean Genome Legacy, and Eckerd College. Her field and laboratory research are centered around the

microbial ecology and natural products chemistry of invertebrate-microbial symbioses, with a focus on tropical and temperate corals, identification of bioactive compounds produced by coral-associated bacteria, and exploration of the microbiology of microplastics toxicology in Narragansett Bay. Since 2016, she has co-convoked regular workshops to gather researchers and educators who work on the local, temperate coral *Astrangia poculata*, a newly emerging model organism for broad studies of animal-microbe symbioses and study system for testing and discovery of bioactive metabolites.



**Lee Silvestre**, Ms. Silvestre has decades of experience supporting Defense and commercial markets through technology development and transition, programmatic execution, and strategy formation, particularly focused on multiple use applications. As the NavalX East Coast Tech Bridge Coordinator, Lee works with entrepreneurs, small businesses and academia, blue tech industry members, high tech investors, as well as nontraditional defense companies and large system integrators to identify, accelerate, and expose unique and dual-use technology solutions that contribute to Naval missions and pressing needs of national security and the blue tech/ocean sector. Lee's role has been partnered with the non-profit organization SENEDIA, the Navy's proprietary defense partner focused on national technology, talent, and innovation.

Previously she helped to stand up and subsequently managed the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium, a national organization awarded the Navy's undersea technology OTA (Other Transaction Agreement) focused on undersea and maritime technology prototype efforts. Prior to this, Lee was one of five senior entrepreneurial leaders that established a new business in high tech light and color technology. Earlier, Lee served in various senior leadership roles in the \$6.2B Integrated Defense Systems Raytheon Business where Lee was Vice President, Mission Innovation, the group chartered with identifying dual-use, high growth 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 efforts addressing issues of National Defense and the intersection of technology and mission needs became a passion.

With degrees in Applied Mathematics and Operations Research, Lee is leveraging her innovation and business transformation experience within the high-tech community to transition technologies and solutions into meaningful applications that address critical mission needs.



**Jeff Smith** is a Subsea and Seabed Warfare Consultant with Poroy Global Advisors. Prior to recently joining PGA, Jeff was 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. Jeff stood up the AUS Division securing over \$300M in long-term programs, building out multiple new facilities, and staffing an exceptional team in less than 3 years. 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 30 years supporting the US Navy through his industry roles at General Dynamics, Bluefin Robotics, Riptide, BAE Systems, and now Saab. Over the past several years, Jeff has been selected as a UUV subject matter expert to participate in numerous war games and study panels focused on the future of undersea warfare. 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 and numerous non-profit boards for defense, innovation, and blue technology including the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC).



**Dr. Tobias (Toby) Stapleton, PhD, MBA**, co-founder and director of the Blue Venture Forum, Inc. is an active and recognized leader in New England's Blue Economy ecosystem. He regularly advises investors, founders, and policy makers on issues related to growing and sustaining technology startups. Toby provides mentorship to early-stage tech startups through organizations like Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) and MassChallenge.

In addition to his work in the blue economy, Toby is an active investor and an Assistant Teaching Professor, in the Decision & Information Sciences Department, at UMass Dartmouth's Charlton College of Business. Contact Toby at [Toby@blueventureforum.org](mailto:Toby@blueventureforum.org)



**Elizabeth (Liz) M. Tanner, Esq.** was appointed Rhode Island Secretary of Commerce in June 2022, under Governor Daniel McKee. In that role, she administers the Executive Office of Commerce, the state agency charged with promoting commerce and fostering an economic environment in which Rhode Island's businesses can grow and prosper. Elizabeth Tanner was appointed Director of the Department of Business Regulation in November 2017 under Governor Gina Raimondo. She oversaw the regulating and enforcement of all Financial Services, The State Fire Marshal's office (including the Bomb Squad), The State Building Office, Office of Cannabis Regulation, Gaming and Athletics and a wide variety of professional licenses. She serves as a board member to Rhode Island Housing and was believed to be the only female Boxing Commissioner in the United States. Known as a problem solver and a fierce advocate for governmental efficiency, Liz is well recognized for her efforts to make it easier to do business in Rhode Island. Liz began her governmental career in 2015 with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation where she worked closely with small businesses. She was known for listening to and working to resolve the concerns raised by businesses in hundreds of events and meetings she attended or hosted. Prior to civic duty, Liz owned and operated her own law firm focused on real estate and corporate law. She was also a part owner of a title clearing business which was acquired by its national competitor and served as an auditor and trainer in the title insurance industry while she raised her two children. A graduate of the University of Rhode Island and Western New England University Law School, Liz has also received training from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Liz resides in Bristol with her husband, where she is a proud host each year in celebrating the country's oldest 4th of July celebration.



**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 is innovative firms in the defense, technology, financial services, and energy sectors.

In his role at Sachem, Nate has played a leading role as an advocate for businesses at the forefront of innovation. This has included organizing coalitions within Congress to advance research funding, address intellectual property threats, and reduce regulatory obstacles. Nate has also partnered with industry leaders and think tanks to design reform proposals that would integrate more innovative firms into the defense industrial base. Nate has taken on multiple roles that have allowed him to support and strengthen the innovation ecosystem in New England. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and the Blue Venture Forum, two organizations that seek to support business formation and growth in the local technology sector. Nate holds a B.A. in political science from Bates College and a M.P.P. from Brown University.



**Joe Wheeler** is the Co-Founder & CEO of Bluemvmt, a conversational analytics company serving both commercial and defense clients. He is also a best-selling author, speaker, and consultant and serves as the Executive Director of the Service Profit Chain Institute (SPCI), a Boston-based consulting firm he co-founded with Professors Len Schlesinger, James Heskett and W. Earl Sasser of the Harvard Business School. He is the co-author of two books on the topic of employee and customer experience: *The Ownership Quotient* (2008) and *Managing the Customer Experience* (2002), His forthcoming book: *The Digital-First Customer Experience – Seven Design Strategies from the World's Leading Brands* will be released in July of 2023.

Prior to launching The Service Profit Chain Institute, Mr. Wheeler was the Quality and Productivity Executive for Bank of America. Prior to this, he was an Executive Vice President with The Forum Corporation where he managed the firm's Customer Experience Consulting Practice.

He earned his MBA from the Edinburgh Business School and lives in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia.



**Dr. Kyle Woerner** served as a program manager in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency where he developed groundbreaking technologies in support of the defense and intelligence communities. His technical developments spanned austere environments from the ocean floor to counter high-altitude balloons to the Arctic.

Kyle is a retired naval officer with previous assignments spanning highly classified missions in the submarine fleet to the personal staffs of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Kyle holds a Bachelor of Science (summa cum laude) in systems engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology earning a Master of Science in mechanical engineering, the degree of Naval Engineer, and a Doctor of Philosophy in autonomy and marine robotics (mechanical and oceanographic engineering) in the department of Mechanical Engineering and the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. Kyle currently serves in a Chief Scientist role at Systems & Technology Research (STR) within the national defense industry.



**Martin Wosnik** is a Professor of Mechanical and Ocean Engineering at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the Director of the Atlantic Marine Energy Center (AMEC), a National Marine Renewable Energy Center funded by the Department of Energy.

Dr. Wosnik conducts research in fluid dynamics and energy systems, with an emphasis on ocean renewable energy including tidal, wave and offshore wind energy. Dr. Wosnik leads a group of passionate graduate students and engineers who are working hard on harnessing the energy of the ocean.

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.

**Email:** [martin.wosnik@unh.edu](mailto:martin.wosnik@unh.edu)

**Website:** [www.amec-us.org](http://www.amec-us.org)

## Exhibitors 2025

- |                         |                            |                           |                   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 401 Tech Bridge         | Canadian Consulate         | Kraken Robotics           | RI Commerce       |
| Adler Pollock & Sheehan | D -2                       | MITRE                     | Sachem Strategies |
| AMEC                    | DOT (Dartmouth Ocean Tech) | New Bedford Ocean Cluster | Teledyne Marine   |
| Atlantic Canada         | DTN                        | Ohmsett                   | Unity Park        |
| Blue IQ                 | Enginuity Jaia Robotics    | Quebec Govt in Boston     | URI Alumni Office |
| Boston Engineering      | Greater Newport Chamber    | Real-Time Innovations     | UTIC/SEnedia      |
| Bryant University       | Keefe Robotics             |                           | VR Industries     |

# See You Next Year at the 11th Annual Blue Innovation Symposium!

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

