February 2, 2021

Program: 2:00PM-4:00PM

Networking: 4:00-5:00PM

(See Agenda Below)

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MOTN Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network
Welcome to the 6th annual Blue Innovation Symposium.

This year, we have put together a virtual conference that, we hope, stays true to our original mission which is to educate, connect, and facilitate partnering opportunities within the marine technology industry. I want to thank our sponsors, without you this conference simply would not be possible, and our organizing committee.

Co-organizers this year included Erin Donahue, Consulate General of Canada in Boston, Justin Manley, Just Innovation, Roger Race, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies, and Whitney Schwerin, TSC Strategic. And a special thank you to Margo Newcombe, Teledyne Marine, for all of her help in making this year’s program a success.

Once circumstances allow, and as soon as possible, we look forward to gathering everyone face-to-face. Until then, enjoy this conference, please participate in the networking, this year hosted on Wonder.Me (link provided to registered participants), view our YouTube Channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBJ8fW2eCjBxcZdQ2uOPmgw where we’ll be posting this year’s Flashtalks, and subscribe to our Newsletter, to keep up with the latest news from the industry.

We look forward to seeing you on February 2.

Tobias (Toby) Stapleton, PhD, co-founder

The Blue Innovation Symposium: By the Industry, For the Industry.
Thank you to our Event Sponsors!
Agenda

Online 2-4 PM (Eastern) February 2, 2021

Networking 4-5PM

2:00-2:05 Opening Remarks, Toby Stapleton, PhD, Co-Founder, Blue Innovation Symposium

2:05-2:10 Welcome, Rhonda Moniz, Woods Hole Group & President of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN)

2:10-2:15 Panel Introduction, BAE Systems/BAE Fastlabs

2:15-3:20 Global Innovation Panel

Moderator, Melaine Nadeau, CEO Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE)

Panelists

- Eric Siegel – Ocean Startup Challenge (Halifax, Canada)
- Derek Puzzuoli – SeaHawk Robotics (Vancouver, Canada)
- Vince Sieben – Dartmouth Ocean Technologies (Halifax, Canada)
- Jerry Sgobbo – Dive Technologies (Quincy, Massachusetts, USA)
- Jeff Smith – BAE Fastlabs (Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA)
- Robert Dane – Ocius Technology (Syndey, Australia)

Remaining 20 minutes Q&A moderated by Melanie Nadeau

3:20-3:30 Break

3:30-3:50 Keynote, Using Robots for Coral Reef Restoration

Matthew Dunbabin, Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane, Australia)

3:50 -3:55 URI and the Future of the Blue Economy,
Dean Paula Bontempi, URI Graduate School of Oceanography

3:55-4:00 The Future of Offshore Wind and Rhode Island

Hilary Fagan, Commerce Rhode Island

4:00-4:05 Closing Remarks, Toby Stapleton, PhD, MBA

4:05-5:00 Networking (Wonder.Me-link provided to registrants)
Speakers & Panelists

Dr. Paula Bontempi  
Dean, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography  
Website: https://web.uri.edu/gso/

A biological oceanographer for more than 25 years, Dr. Paula Bontempi became dean of the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography in August 2020. Dr. Bontempi comes to GSO after nearly 18 years at NASA Headquarters, first serving as the program manager for ocean biology and biogeochemistry research and program scientist for numerous Earth observing satellite missions, and later the acting deputy director of the Earth Science Division in NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington, D.C.

Robert Dane  
Founder and CEO  
OCIUS Technology Limited  
Email: robert@ocius.com.au  
Website: www.ocius.com.au

Ocius (formerly SolarSailor) built multiple award-winning commercial hybrid electric ferries, but in 2012 pivoted its patented technology towards Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) called ‘Bluebottles’ changed its name to Ocius. Bluebottle USVs are unique for persistent Uncrewed Surface Vessels in that they use solar + wind + wave energy, carry large payloads, deploy sensors to varying depths from a unique keel winch and can be launched from a standard boat ramp.
Erin Daily Donahue  
Trade Commissioner  
Canadian Consulate General in Boston  

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.

Matthew Dunbabin  
Professor  
School of Electrical Engineering & Robotics  
Queensland University of Technology  
Website: [https://staff.qut.edu.au/staff/m.dunbabin](https://staff.qut.edu.au/staff/m.dunbabin)

Matthew conducts transdisciplinary research into environmental robotics focusing on advanced perception-to-action solutions with application to large-scale management and monitoring challenges. He currently holds the position of Professor at the Queensland University of Technology as well as Chief Investigator at the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision (ACRV) and the QUT Centre for Robotics.

An experienced researcher and robotics specialist, Matthew has a proven track record in the research, development, field evaluation and operational use of vision-enabled autonomous systems for performing unsupervised monitoring and management tasks in complex environments. His wide research
interests include vision-based perception and classification, vision-based navigation, adaptive sampling and path planning, and cooperative robotics. Through application to large-scale marine habitat restoration, marine pest identification and control, conservation, greenhouse gas mapping and utility compliance monitoring, his research has received numerous national and international R&D and engineering awards.

Matthew received his Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Engineering from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and his PhD from the Queensland University of Technology. He started his professional career in 1995 as a project engineer at Roaduser Research International, and following his PhD joined the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in the Autonomous Systems Laboratory before moving to QUT in 2013. A strong advocate of robotic systems in civilian applications, Professor Dunbabin is involved in a number of initiatives aimed at promoting, educating and demonstrating autonomous systems to a range of interest groups nationally and internationally.

Hilary Fagan
Executive Vice President of Business Development
RI Commerce Corp
Website: [https://commerceri.com/](https://commerceri.com/)

Hilary Fagan serves as Executive Vice President of Business Development for the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. She develops and executes a business development strategy for the state across targeted sectors for business growth.

Prior to joining the corporation, Hilary worked in a variety of roles in the financial sales industry. She was a director in the corporate client group at the NASDAQ stock market, Washington, DC, where she worked with the CFO and investor relations officers of NASDAQ-listed companies on trading issues, marketing, and public relations. Prior to NASDAQ, she was a research sales associate at Morgan Stanley in New York. At Morgan Stanley, Hilary worked in the institutional equity department, providing research sales coverage for institutional accounts based in New York and Europe. Most recently, she served as the director of admission at Lincoln School focusing on enrollment management, marketing and advertising.

Hilary holds a BA from Hobart/William Smith Colleges and has completed graduate coursework in statistics, marketing, and business economics.
Justin Manley
Founder
Just Innovation
Website: https://www.justinnovationinc.com/

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

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

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

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Rhonda J. Moniz
President, Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network
Host, SeaState Podcast
Founder, Underwater Investigative Group
Sales Manager, Woods Hole Group
Website: www.theuigroup.net

Rhonda J. Moniz specializes in diving technologies and subsea systems. Trained as a Scientific Diver and Dive Safety Officer Rhonda has overseen multiple projects, expeditions, and training programs. She has achieved Master Instructor Rating and specializes in Underwater Forensics and Marine Technology. Rhonda consults as an Underwater Forensics Investigator for UIG (the Underwater Investigative Group., LLC), and is an adjunct professor teaching Underwater CSI techniques. She has been on multiple expeditions around the world including several large-scale, deep sea archaeology projects working with Dr. Bob Ballard as his first female ROV pilot. The expeditions focused on investigating ancient shipwrecks off the coast of Turkey and in the Black Sea with depths in excess of 4,000M. There were also several expeditions with Dr. Ballard as an ROV pilot studying underwater volcanoes off the coast of Santorini. She has extensive experience with Remotely Operated Vehicles and their sensors.
Rhonda has worked to create training programs for Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV), and multiple platform sensors. She has experience creating multiple subsea training programs, and has a video production, journalism, and communications background. She has worked as a journalist and filmmaker in the ocean technology industry, and has published multiple articles in numerous publications. She has worked as a producer and cinematographer on television shows for CBS, Discovery, Netflix, and PBS. Rhonda was also the former editor for Ocean News & Technology magazine.

She currently is the host of the very popular podcast SeaState. She is President of The Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN), Chairman of the Board for the Marine Technology Society (MTS), New England, and is also on the Board of Directors for NERACOOS. Rhonda has given talks around the country and is currently working on her doctoral degree. Rhonda has served as a subject matter expert for multiple television shows including Erin Burnett, Anderson Cooper and the Oxygen channel. You can listen to the podcast SeaState at https://www.oceannews.com/seastate. You can visit her website at www.theuigroup.net.

Melanie Nadeau. P.Eng. ICD.D
Chief Executive Officer, Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE)
Email: Melanie.nadeau@coveocean.com
Website: https://coveocean.com/

Melanie Nadeau is Chief Executive Officer for the Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE). An award-winning Canadian businesswoman and trailblazer, Melanie leads and grows organizations by developing strategies to gain market confidence, drive investments, deliver profits and achieve operational success. She is an expert in the commercialization of emerging technologies, developing business strategies, and incubating new technology into mature revenue generating engines.

She is a resilient executive leader who builds and fosters strong strategic partnerships with her unique combination of technical, business, and political acumen. An astute decision-maker, Melanie drives operational efficiency and asset optimization through operations, financial management, human resources, and administrative policies and procedures. In her previous role as Director, Strategic Initiatives for EMERA, a multi-billion-dollar energy and services company, she focused on long-term growth strategies and commercial projects impacting the bottom line. Prior to this, she held positions of increasing responsibility overseeing 40+ employees and $500M+ budgets.

An internationally recognized thought-leader in the ocean sector, she offers a global perspective and has been a notable expert for the International Energy Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. She was hand-selected by the delegates of 30+ countries to Chair the IEC industry standards for marine technologies and co-led global conformity assessment for renewable energy. Melanie has earned multiple awards including Canada’s Clean16 Award for her outstanding contribution towards clean capitalism. She has been an invited speaker to numerous events, including TEDGlobal. Since serving in the Royal Canadian Navy, she continues her deep appreciation for our oceans.
Derek Puzzuoli, P.Eng
Co-Founder / Chief Executive Officer
SeaHawk Robotics
Email: derek@seahawkrobotics.com
Website: www.seahawkrobotics.com

Derek is an experienced leader with expertise in vehicle systems design for multiple industries including marine, automotive, and amusement rides. He is passionate about creating new products and knows how to advance new concepts into production. Since Seahawk’s inception he has been instrumental in setting the company’s strategic framework and driving key partnerships vital to success.

Prior to co-founding Seahawk Robotics, Derek was a key player in developing Igloo Innovations as a service provider for the design of world-class amusement park rides and creative solutions for ever-challenging marine industry. While at Igloo, he also co-invented SeaHawk’s underlying technology and developed the idea into a spin-off business. Additionally, Derek’s his pedigree includes tenure at Oceanworks International, Westport Innovations and Chrysler Corporation with a common theme of delivering introducing new products to market.

Derek holds a BASc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Windsor and is a registered Professional Engineer in the province of British Columbia.

Roger E. Race
Director of Innovation, Dartmouth Ocean Technologies
Email: roger.race@dartmouthocean.com
Website: www.dartmouthocean.com

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

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

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

Technical Reports and Awards
R. Race, Paper presented at Oceanology 2010, London on “A towed antenna for real time communication from an unmanned underwater vehicle.”

Jerry Sgobbo
President and CEO
Dive Technologies
Email: jerry@divetechnologies.com
Website: www.divetechnologies.com

Jerry, along with his two co-founders, Bill Lebo and Sam Russo, founded Dive Technologies in 2018, where Jerry currently serves as the President and CEO. Dive Technologies is focused on developing a long-range, deep-rated large autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) that is reliable and highly customizable at a disruptive price point to serve fast growing defense and commercial markets. Prior to starting Dive Technologies, Jerry worked at Bluefin Robotics/General Dynamics Mission Systems and was the program manager for Knifefish, a U.S. Navy program of record that leverages the Bluefin-21 AUV to deliver critical mine countermeasure capability to the U.S. Navy fleet.

Jerry is a 1994 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy and served a 20-year career in the Coast Guard retiring at the rank of Commander in 2014. In addition to graduating from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Jerry holds engineering graduate degrees from the University of Michigan and an M.B.A. from the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Jerry is a native of Syracuse, NY and is equally passionate about Syracuse basketball and New England sports teams as he is about ocean exploration.
Eric Siegel  
Executive in Residence  
Ocean Startup Project  
Email: esiegel@oceanstartupproject.ca  
Website: http://oceanstartupproject.ca

Eric has broad experience in many aspects of oceanographic and subsea technology, measurements, and science. He has held leadership positions in sales, marketing, business development, product development, and manufacturing.

Eric is a demonstrated growth leader with market depth, customer touch, and technical expertise. He has achieved success in doing business with customers in the USA, Canada, China, Mexico, UK, and much of Europe.

Eric is trained in physical oceanography, naval architecture and marine engineering, and earned an MBA with a focus on leadership, innovation, and global business. Eric is presently the Executive in Residence at the Ocean Startup Project and is helping to lead a consortium of partners with the goal to grow the ocean technology ecosystem in Canada.

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

Vincent Sieben  
CTO  
Dartmouth Ocean Technologies  
Email: vincent.sieben@dartmouthocean.com  
Website: www.dartmouthocean.com

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

He has actively published in the areas of microfabrication, lab-on-a-chip, optics, and in situ sensors for environmental monitoring. Dartmouth Ocean Technologies Inc. has recently been awarded a contract to deliver 15 phosphate lab-on-chip sensors and 10 eDNA samplers for 2022, one of the largest planned lab-on-chip deployments to date.
Jeff Smith
Chief Scientist
Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Systems
BAE Systems Fast Labs
Website: www.baesystems.com

Mr. Jeff Smith is a Chief Scientist for UUV Systems with BAE Systems. Prior to its acquisition in 2019, Jeff was the president and founder of Riptide Autonomous Solutions, a major disruptor in the unmanned undersea vehicle (UUV) market. Jeff has spent over 25 years supporting the US Navy through his industry roles at General Dynamics, Bluefin Robotics, Riptide, and now BAE Systems. In 2010, Smith was tapped by the PMS403 (now PMS 406) to chair a broad industry team to conduct a study of the supporting technology areas for UMVs in support of a pending UUV Master Plan update. Over the past several years, Jeff has also been selected as a subject matter expert to participate in numerous war games and study panels focused on the future of undersea warfare for DARPA, COMSUBFOR, OSD and ONA. Jeff also holds patents in robotics, UUVs, electro-optical systems, rapid prototyping, subsea battery safety systems, biomedical devices, and in a counter-sniper system, with additional patents pending. He holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and an MBA from the Lally School of Management at RPI. Jeff was formerly an advisor for Open Water Power, prior to their acquisition by L-3 Technologies and is a current member of the board of directors for Areté Associates.

Tobias Stapleton, PhD, MBA
Co-Founder & Managing Director
Blue Innovation Symposium
Email: toby@tobystapleton.com
Website: www.blueinnovationsymposium.com

Toby has over 20 years of experience in helping companies, from start-ups to large multi-nationals, to commercialize technology and expand into new markets.

Toby is currently the Managing Director of the Blue Innovation Symposium and Director of Innovation for TXX Strategies Group. He serves as an editorial board member of Ocean News & Technology (ON&T) magazine, the Vice President of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN), a mentor for organizations such as SeaAhead and
MassChallenge and is a frequent speaker on the topic of blue technology eco-systems. In addition, he serves as a SBIR reviewer and was selected to be a judge for the US Department of Energy’s first ever Marine Energy Collegiate Competition (MECC).

Toby has held senior leadership positions, including President & CEO and Executive Director, in private and non-profit organizations, and has served in higher education, in roles such as Assistant Professor, Assistant Dean, Dean, and Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a technology incubator that supported a number of marine technology start-ups.

Toby is a graduate of the Venture Mentoring Service (VMS) immersion program at MIT and holds a PhD and MA from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, an MBA from Suffolk University, and a BA from Bryant University.

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**FlashTalk Presentations**

This year we had an unprecedented number of applications to deliver a virtual FlashTalk and the organizing committee is pleased to announce that the following companies have been chosen to post a Flashtalk on the BIS's YouTube channel, see below for a link to channel.

- C-2I, Inc. (corrected)
- Ocean Sonics (New)
- Avalon Holographics, Inc. (New)
- V2 Subsea
- SeaTrac
- XOcean
- Suburban Marine
- In Nature Robotics
- Armada Marine Robotics
- Seachange Resources
- Pangeo Subsea
- CIDCO-Development Center for Ocean Mapping
- MarineLabs
- Jasco Applied Sciences
- Ashored
- Open Ocean Robotics
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