



The International Business Alliance
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

News Release

IMPROVING SEAFARER SAFETY AND WELFARE: INNOVATION CHALLENGE SEEKS SOLUTIONS

World Ocean Council (WOC) Supports Thetius' Call for Proposals from Startups and SMEs to Improve Life at Sea for Mariners

17 August 2020

In partnership with Inmarsat and Shell Shipping and Maritime, Thetius has launched an Innovation Challenge in search for novel solutions to improve crew safety and welfare. Applications close on 16 September.

WOC – the Global Blue Economy Business Organization – invites support for Thetius' efforts to seek solutions across four challenge areas:

- 1) Improving the safety of deck operations**
- 2) Minimizing fatigue on board**
- 3) Reducing administration onboard ships and enabling remote auditing**
- 4) Improving the overall welfare of seafarers on board**

From the submitted applications, a shortlist will be generated, and successful solutions invited to pitch their idea to a decision-making jury. The majority of the jury will be made up of serving seafarers, with representatives from Inmarsat, Shell and the welfare sector also taking part.

The team behind the selected proposal will be awarded a £10,000 GBP cash grant, funded by Inmarsat, to test their idea by implementing a proof of concept onboard a Shell vessel equipped with Inmarsat's communication and digital capabilities. The cash will be awarded upfront to the winning solution provider, and the winner startup will receive support from Thetius, Shell and Inmarsat to implement their idea.

Paul Holthus, WOC Founding President and CEO, stated, "The men and women working in shipping and the other sectors of the ocean economy are vital to all of us, especially in this time of crisis. They are essential to the flow of food, medicine, medical supplies, energy and other goods through global supply chains. This innovation challenge is an important opportunity to identify and test practical solutions to the very real issues affecting seafarer welfare."

The deadline for solution proposals is **16 September at 23:00 UTC**.
For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

Blue Economy by the Numbers

Estimated worldwide population of seafarers serving on internationally trading merchant ships: **1,647,500** (1)

Percent of marine accidents that can be attributed to human error: **75% to 96%** (2)

Percent of vessel casualties and maritime injuries for which fatigue is the main factor: **16% of vessel casualties; 33% of injuries** (3)

Sources:

(1) International Chamber of Shipping: <https://www.ics-shipping.org/shipping-facts/shipping-and-world-trade/global-supply-and-demand-for-seafarers#:~:text=The%20worldwide%20population%20of%20seafarers,officers%20and%20873%2C500%20are%20ratings>

(2) <https://www.maritimejournal.com/news101/insurance,-legal-and-finance/human-error-accounts-for-75-of-marine-liability-losses#:~:text=Human%20error%20has%20long%20been,be%20attributed%20to%20human%20error>

(3) Sharma, S.B., Yadav, R., & Dorothy, B.C. (2013). A study on human errors and classification of commonly prevalent errors in shipping operational practices. AMET International Journal of Management, July–December, 1–7.

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

27 August, 10:00 CET, Webinar

The Blue Economy Hub: [Blue Opportunities in Island Blue Economies](#) (Panelist)

2-3 September, Online Summit

[Global Arctic Shipping Summit](#) (Speaker)

23-24 September, Online Summit

[Shipping & the Blue Economy Virtual Forum](#) (Partner)

World Ocean Council (WOC) – The Global Blue Economy Business Organization

The WOC is the international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership, collaboration and action on ocean sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology and investment.

WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and France.

Contact email: info@oceanCouncil.org **Web:** www.oceanCouncil.org

To subscribe to future WOC News or to update your contact information, [click here](#).

To share this issue of WOC News with others (on Facebook, Twitter, etc), [click here](#).



©2020 World Ocean Council | 3035 Hibiscus Drive, Suite 1 Honolulu, HI 96816 USA