



The International Business Alliance
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

News Release

REGISTRATION FOR THE 5 DAY VIRTUAL EVENT IS NOW AT A SPECIAL LAST-MINUTE RATE OF \$99 (MEMBERS), \$159 (NON-MEMBERS)

World Ocean Council (WOC) is Collaborating with IMMS for This Year's UMC, the World's Oldest and Largest High-Level Gathering of Ocean Mineral Stakeholders 27 Sept – 2 Oct

25 September 2020

For more information and to register: <https://www.underwaterminerals.org>
Program schedule and agenda: <https://www.underwaterminerals.org/event-schedule>

With the 2020 theme of “Marine Minerals Solutions for Building a Green Energy Future”, the [Underwater Minerals Conference \(UMC\)](https://www.underwaterminerals.org) represents the world's largest annual gathering of ocean mineral stakeholders from over 25 countries, including government, academic and industry professionals.

The special metals found in rich deposits on the deep ocean floor are critical for smart electronics and crucial green technologies, such as solar power and electric cars. But as the world's population rises, demand is now outstripping the production from mines on land for some important elements, like cobalt. The ocean mining business players say the extraordinary richness of the underwater deposits mean the environmental impacts will be far lower than on land. But critics say exotic and little-known ecosystems in the deep oceans could be destroyed and must be protected. This is where the dilemma starts. How do we meet our needs and our responsibilities towards the environments we could impact?

The UMC 2020 will be providing a platform for researchers, business leaders, governing authorities and other stakeholders to share national policies on underwater mining, research findings on different regions of the ocean and the development of new technologies that can help better manage operations underwater.

The World Ocean Council (WOC) is a Sponsor of the UMC 2020. WOC CEO Paul Holthus will be speaking on 30 September at noon on “The Law of the Sea Amendment (BBNJ) and What this New Regulation Means to the Deep Seabed Mining Community”.

For more information on the program and to register, [click here](#).

To benefit from the reduced member rate of \$99 for virtual attendance, please register first with the International Marine Minerals Society (IMMS) as a new member [at this link](#). If you have any questions, please contact lazevedo@immsoc.org.

Due to COVID travel restrictions, UMC 2020 will be a primarily virtual event with limited in-person attendance. For more information, [click here](#).

[Blue Economy by the Numbers](#)

Number of exploration contracts issued by the International Seabed Authority: **30**

Source: International Seabed Authority <https://isa.org.jm/exploration-contracts>

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

27 September - 2 October, Florida/Online Conference

[Underwater Minerals Conference \(UMC\) 2020](#) (Speaker, Sponsor)

30 September, 10:00 BST, Webinar

[Breakbulk – The Digital Special: Growing a Sustainable Future](#) (Speaker)

1-2 October, Online Conference

[Reuters Offshore and Floating Wind Europe](#) (Speaker)

6-8 October, Rotterdam/Online Conference

[World Conference on Floating Solutions](#) (Keynote Speaker, Partner)

14-16 October, Online Event

[CMA Shipping](#) (Speaker, Supporting Organization)

15-16 October, Online Event

[Global Forum on Human Settlements 2020](#) (Speaker, 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](#).