



News Release

WOC “GLOBAL BLUE ECONOMY INNOVATION INITIATIVES NETWORK” RECONVENES ON 25 FEB 2021

Ocean Accelerators, Incubators, Challenge Competitions and Startup Hubs To Meet Again at World Ocean Council Virtual Event

11 February 2021

The World Ocean Council (WOC) “Global Blue Economy Innovation Initiatives Network” will convene again on 25 February 2021.

The roundtable continues to bring together the worldwide community of ocean-related accelerators, incubators, challenge competitions and startup hubs involved in ocean sustainable development. The WOC has identified and reached out to over 80 such entities.

Ocean sustainable development innovation initiatives who have not yet been contacted by the WOC are invited to register their interest [here](#) for information on the Network and an invitation to the upcoming workshop.

The WOC Global Blue Economy Innovation Initiatives Network is designed to:

- Connect the growing number of ocean-sustainability related accelerators, incubators, challenge competitions and startup hubs
- Foster communication, coordination and the exchange of best practices among the initiatives/organizations
- Catalyze synergies among ocean sustainability-related innovation initiatives and organizations
- Increase the focus of innovation initiatives on core sustainable development challenges/issues facing ocean industries
- Better connect innovation initiatives to the market, i.e. ocean business and industry
- Increase investment community awareness of the initiatives/organizations and their outputs, i.e. startups, scaleups, etc. by linking Network participants to the WOC Ocean Investor group

The WOC efforts on the Global Blue Economy Innovation Initiatives Network have been building over the past several years by:

- Reaching out to ocean innovation organizations and initiatives
- Holding bilateral or small group calls over the past year
- Raising awareness for innovation challenges and organizations through News Releases to WOC’s global network of 35,000 ocean business and investment stakeholders
- Organizing a workshop on the Network at the WOC 7th Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) in 2019 (“Investing in Ocean Futures: Finance and Innovation for the Blue Economy”)

Blue Economy by the Numbers

Amount the European Investment Bank will invest in sustainable ocean projects from 2020-2025:
€2.5 billion

Source: https://www.eib.org/attachments/thematic/eib_blue_sustainable_ocean_strategy_en.pdf.

UPCOMING WOC EVENT

Global Blue Finance Summit (BlueFIN '21) – Dates to be determined

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

13-14 January, Online event

Blue Invest Ocean Funds Roundtable (Co-Organizer)

26 January, Online event

EU Blue Invest Day (Participant)

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, UK and France.

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

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