

The Future *of the Blue Economy*





A Message *from the Director*

As we look back over the last few years, I think we have a lot to be proud of. We have brought high-value, blue tech focused, programming to over 1,000 participants, supported dozens of promising blue technology startups through mentorship and matchmaking, and helped investors to better understand the trends in blue technology investment and connect them with blue tech founders. Our Blue Innovation Symposium, going into its 9th year, has become the largest blue technology event in New England, regularly attracting a global audience of leaders in business, science, and from key governmental and academic organizations, including NOAA, BOEM, and the US Navy. In 2023 we launched several new initiatives including the first ever Blue Venture Investment Summit, and our In-Water Demonstration Day. These two events alone brought together more than 200 attendees including founders, institutional investors, and resource providers.

“Congratulations on a successful event and thanks so much for including me! I found the whole day very valuable. I made a few promising new connections that I’ll be following up on this week, including a potential partnership with the Boston Station USCG. Will try to keep you updated for your impact metrics.” Kevin Rosa, PhD, Current Lab

As a result of the success of these events we signed our first MOU with Invest Nova Scotia and are now developing a series of events with partner organizations such as the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and the Mystic Seaport Museum. Stay tuned to our social media or sign up for our newsletter for more information about these exciting initiatives.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 9th Annual Blue Innovation Symposium to take place February 26-29, 2024 in Newport, RI. This is the largest Blue Tech Innovation gathering in New England which brings together the technology development and investment community to seek ways to bring more great ideas into the marketplace.

All of this could not happen without the engagement and commitment of our sponsors, mentors, staff, and investors. Let’s keep the momentum going and keep it **BLUE**.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to another great year of supporting the planet’s blue economy.

Sincerely,

Toby Stapleton

Director and Founder, Blue Venture Forum

Our Mission

We connect blue tech founders with investors, strategic partners, and resource providers via forums such as the Blue Innovation Symposium, the Blue Venture Investment Summit, Piranha Pond Blue Pitch sessions, In-water demonstrations, and other topical events to identify key challenges that need a solution in the blue tech space.

The Blue Venture Forum was founded to connect existing blue technology companies, investors, and resource providers with emerging blue technology firms. This first-of-its-kind forum was created in 2021 to provide scale-up blue technology companies with mentorship, matchmaking with investors and corporates, and connection to resource providers to help them scale and grow their companies. We also provide a valuable service to investors by educating them about the realities of investing in the blue technology sector.

The Blue Venture Forum is a non-profit, incorporated in Rhode Island, that is helping to establish Newport and the region as a global center and hub for blue technology by assisting the region's existing blue technology industry to connect with investors and resource partners and by attracting start-up and scale-up blue tech firms from outside of the state, including Foreign Direct Investment, to Newport and the greater Aquidneck Island region. Based on the demographics of the attendees to our events, BVF is having an impact in New England, Canada and beyond.



Program Overview

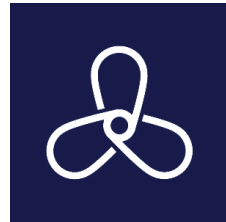
Blue Venture Forum offers topical programs addressing new technologies, trends in the investment industry, ideas for partnerships and valuable networking at all of our in person and online programs.

Blue Venture Forum...by the numbers

1100+ Attendees at events in 2022-2023	October 2021 Venture Capital and Blue Technology: A Case Study with Dive Technologies (Newport, RI)	November 2021 Opportunities in Weather Modeling and Ocean Observation (Newport, RI)
February 2022 Blue Innovation Symposium (Middletown, RI and Hybrid)	June 2022 The Future of Ocean Sensors (Newport, RI)	September 2022 Growing a Blue Tech Startup (Newport, RI)
October 2022 Blue Tech Investment Roundtable (Newport, RI)	November 2022 Piranha Pond Blue Pitch Session (Newport, RI)	January 2023 Blue Venture Investment Summit (Roger Williams University)
January 2023 Blue Innovation Symposium (Middletown, RI)	May 2023 Blue Venture In-Water Equipment Demo Day (Roger Williams University)	15+ Climate, Clean Tech, Blue Tech investors have participated in Blue Venture Forum programs since 2021!



Our *Investment Engagement*



30+ Start-Ups

Have participated in Pitch Sessions, Flash Talks and Demonstrations organized by Blue Venture Forum (2022-2023)

Current Lab	IntegraSEE Research	RTI
Ashored, Inc	LeVanta Tech	Sea Change Resources
Black Fish Engineering	Littoral Power Systems	Sensor Globe
Blue IQ	Mabel Systems	Sensor Technology
Boston Engineering	Maritime XR	Shift Environmental
Coastal Protection Solutions	MITRE Labs	Sonalysts
Deep Blue Composites	Nu-Boats	Triton Anchor
Falco	NZE	VATN Systems
Fathom Fishing	Quantum Devices Corp.	Voltai
Green Sage Prebiotics	Rising Tide BioAcoustics	



JAlA Technology's, JAlABot.



Patrick Pasteris discussing the Aurelia Ocean Current Profiler at Blue Venture In-Water Equipment Demo Day (May 2023).



Aurelia Ocean Current Profiler being deployed off dock.

The Blue Venture Forum *Meeting a Need*

After the 7th Annual Blue Innovation Symposium took place, it was determined that there needed to be an overarching organization that provided a platform that would enable even more engagement within the blue tech ecosystem. The Blue Venture Forum was established as a non-profit in 2022 to provide mentorship, engagement and connections within the blue tech innovation sector and the investment community at large.

The Blue Venture Investment Summit that took place in January at Roger Williams University and which kicked off the Blue Innovation Symposium, turned out to be a transformational program for the BVF. It brought investors right where they need to be: in front of blue tech developers in search of next phase financing, mentoring support and potential enhanced deal flow. The summit attracted more than 100 participants and more than 15 investors, including DTN Ventures, Propeller, Katapult Ventures, Investible Oceans, and the Blue Angels. Because of the positive feedback that we received from attendees to this event, more investment summits are in the pipeline over the next year.



People “ What They’re Saying



Testimonials

“I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to the Blue Ventures Forum for the opportunity for our startup, BLUEiQ, to participate in the recent In-Water Demo Day flash talk. We were absolutely thrilled to participate in the event and network with the BVF blue tech community. We were also excited to be chosen to participate in the 401 TechBridge demo day in late summer/early fall 2023 and look forward to talking with Linda Larsen/401 TB soon about the details. Rob and I appreciated your commitment to facilitating a productive BVF In-Water Demo Day experience and wanted to express our sincere gratitude for this remarkable opportunity. We look forward to future collaborations with you both and with BVF’s blue tech professional network.”

Kim Gavin

Founder & CEO, BlueIQ

“First off, excellent job by you and Toby envisioning and bringing to fruition an excellent in-water demo day. This unique forum is very effective in networking within the Blue Tech industry. Blue Venture uses very unique and effective forums.”

Len Zabilansky

ARA Program Manager, Ohmsett Facility

“Congratulations on a successful event and thanks so much for including me! I found the whole day very valuable. I made a few promising new connections that I’ll be following up on this week, including a potential partnership with the Boston station USCG. Will try to keep you updated for your impact metrics.”

Kevin Rosa, PhD

Founder, Current Lab

“Just a short note to thank you for inviting me to the Blue Venture Demo Day - I really enjoyed the program and getting to meet people engaged in this field. Very much looking forward to expanding my network and working with others at UMD to partner with you.”

Catherine Ives

PhD, Director of Commercialization, UMass Dartmouth

“I did make a couple of promising contacts at the event and gained some insights on what’s happening in the business community. I particularly enjoyed the in-water demonstration for the JAIA robots.”

Gary Lucas

Senior Software Engineer, Sonalysts, Inc.

Blue Venture Forum

Board of Directors



Dr. Tobias Stapleton Dr. Tobias (Toby) Stapleton is a recognized leader in New England's Blue Economy ecosystem. He is the managing director of TXX Strategies Group, and currently serves as the chair of the Blue Venture Forum, President of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN) and is the co-founder of the Blue Innovation Symposium. Toby is an experienced executive and entrepreneur who has held senior leadership roles in private, non-profit, and academic organizations. He works with founders and c-level executives to develop go-to-market and technology commercialization strategies and advises policy makers, economic development officials, and legislators on issues related to growing and sustaining blue technology eco-systems. He holds a PhD and MA from UMass Dartmouth, an MBA from Suffolk University, and a BA from Bryant University. toby@blueventureforum.com



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Programs US
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Jeffrey Smith
Vice President and General
Manager
SAAB, Inc.



Looking Forward

to the Future

During the 2023-24 programming year, we are committed to increasing the number of founders that we support by developing partnerships with like-minded organizations. We will continue to support founders, who are addressing areas of critical concern to our oceans, through mentorship, matchmaking, and educational programming. And we will expand our programming to help investors better understand the realities of investing in blue technology startups. This will include helping them to identify “investible” startups through referrals, pitch events, and, of course, our signature FlashTalk sessions at programs like the Blue Innovation Symposium.

If supporting blue technology founders and startups is of interest to you, see below for information on how you can get involved and support the Blue Venture Forum.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing everyone February 26-29, 2024 at the 9th Blue Innovation Symposium, the largest Blue Tech gathering in New England at the Wyndham Newport Hotel in Middletown, RI. We expect over 350 attendees, panelists, exhibitors, and sponsors to join us once again to see what’s happening in Blue Tech.

Please Join our Team of Sponsors and Supporters

By joining our team of sponsors and supporters you will have access to information and players in the emerging blue tech start up community. The Blue Venture Forum is known for our ability to connect you with new prospects in the growing Blue Economy.

Joining our team will enable you to target your efforts toward curated business opportunities and most importantly introduce you to the excellent people who are creating new technologies to understand how the ocean works, how it effects climate change and how this information is driving and disrupting key sectors of the blue economy such as: marine transportation, marine energy, food production (aquaculture & commercial fisheries), climate monitoring, defense and others.

Contact Toby Stapleton, Founder and Director, Blue Venture Forum to discuss next steps.

Email: Toby@blueventureforum.org

Phone: cell/text: 774-264-4123

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Our Growing Network



Thank You to Our Loyal Sponsors!



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**See You at the 9th Annual
Blue Innovation Symposium**

**February 26-29, 2024
Middletown, Rhode Island**

info@blueventureforum.org