

Join our world-class Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator program to support maritime and ocean companies innovate and grow by connecting them with capital and key stakeholders.

The Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator is the first Washington state maritime accelerator, and among only a handful that exist in the US, established by Washington Maritime Blue and the Port of Seattle. The goal is to demonstrate the capabilities, opportunities and leadership our region has to be a global innovation hub for the Blue Economy.

Selection

10 promising startups were selected for the first cohort, which formally begins in January 2021. We will accept applications from all startups and new ventures who are passionate about finding innovative solutions to benefit the Maritime and Ocean economies, healthy marine and ocean ecosystems, and equitable & resilient communities. Last year, over 100 applicants were reviewed and selected by the Washington Maritime Blue Innovation Advisory Committee.

The Program

The selected startups will benefit from intensive programming over an accelerated 4-month period. Startups will receive access to the full suite of the Washington Maritime Blue cluster members, stakeholder and partners, be a part of unique programming, and the opportunity to connect with a global network of maritime and ocean economy mentors and advisors.

Demo Day

The accelerator will conclude in April 2021 with a formal Demo Day where the startups will pitch their ideas to a curated audience of investors, mentors, corporate partners, government officials. The Demo Day will coincide with the annual Maritime Blue Summit that will attract hundreds from across the globe.

Why Maritime and the Ocean?

The OECD predicts the Global Ocean Economy is expected to double to \$3 Trillion by 2030. If, and only if, we employ sustainable solutions and accelerate innovation that address current climate and ocean health challenges – accelerating the *Blue Economy*.

The Washington Maritime Blue cluster organization is a strategic alliance formed to accelerate innovation and sustainability building on one of the most diverse, interdependent and strong maritime and ocean economies in the US. Add Washington's strengths in technology development, advanced manufacturing and a culture of best practices, and our region quickly becomes a Center of Excellence to grow jobs, protect the environment and support resilient communities.

Washington State's Maritime Industry is:

- Strong, diverse, interdependent and responsible for nearly \$38 Billion dollars of the state's economy.
- Already a global leader in environmental performance, innovation and best practices.
- Has a [Statewide Strategy for Blue Economy](#) with an organized cluster of stakeholders implementing projects.
- Home to the 4th largest container gateway on the United States.
- Directly employs 90,000 jobs and impacts nearly 200,000 across the state.
- Many sectors from Cruise to Shipping, Fishing to Ocean Technology, Shipbuilding to Recreational
- Includes over \$300 Million annually of federal dollars to WA State alone for Ocean Technology and research.
- Responsible for 90% of the global movement of goods & will double in the next decade (international shipping).
- The most carbon efficient method of transportation per container. Yet, emits nearly 1 Billion tons of CO₂ combined – more than Germany, the 6th largest emitter.
- Organized – Collaborative – Resilient and ready for the 21st Century!

Sponsorship Opportunities

This Washington Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator has unique opportunities to align your organization with entrepreneurs, technologies, solutions and investment opportunities to insure a growing Blue Economy; healthy ocean, marine and coastal ecosystems; and equitable, resilient communities. Opportunities include:

Blue Innovation Angel Sponsor - \$20,000 or more

With your Angel sponsorship of the Accelerator we will be able to provide a cash award in your organization's (or chosen) name during the Demo-day event. Your organization will have direct mentorship and investment access to the cohort of Maritime Blue Startups throughout the program. Other Benefits include:

- Name and host announcement of the Maritime Blue Startup Award recipients
- Prime mentorship opportunity with the chosen start-ups (to be negotiated)
- Position on Judge's Panel for Demo-day
- Sponsorship recognition during event program, logo placement on all material/display
- Annual Membership to Maritime Blue for 1 year as Catalytic Sponsor (website for details)

Catalytic Sponsor - \$10,000

As a Catalytic sponsor of the Accelerator a representative of your organization will have the opportunity to provide opening, closing remarks, and branding highlighted and featured throughout the programming and on material sent out to participants and stakeholders. Benefits include:

- Opportunity to provide opening or closing remarks or keynote introduction
- Prime Mentorship opportunity with the chosen start-ups (to be negotiated)
- Position on Judge's Panel for Demo-day
- Sponsorship recognition during event program, logo placement on all material/display.
- Annual Membership to Maritime Blue for 1 year as Catalytic Sponsor (website for details)

Impact Sponsor - \$5,000

An opportunity to provide expertise and speaker opportunity. As a Session Sponsor you will work with event organizers on discussion panel topics and provide a panelist or moderator. Benefits include:

- Position on Judge's Panel for Demo-day
- Mentorship opportunity with the chosen start-ups
- Sponsorship recognition during event program, logo placement on all material/display
- Annual Membership to Maritime Blue for 1 year as Impact Sponsor (website for details)

Supporting / Sustaining Sponsor - \$2,500

- Mentorship opportunity with the chosen start-ups
- Sponsorship recognition during event program, logo placement on all material/display.
- Annual Membership to Maritime Blue for 1 year as a Sustaining Sponsor (website for details)

For more information, go to: www.maritimeblue.org/blue-accelerator

Contact:

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Washington Maritime Blue is a non-profit, strategic alliance formed to accelerate innovation and sustainability in support of an inclusive blue economy. With a mission to implement Washington State's Strategy for the Blue Economy delivered by Governor Jay Inslee's Maritime Innovation Advisory Council, we are a partnership between industry, public sector, research & training institutions, and community organizations. Maritime Blue works to create a world-class, thriving, equitable and sustainable maritime and ocean industry through knowledge sharing, joint innovation, entrepreneurship, commercialization, business and workforce development.