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Maritime Blue announces Second Wave of Washington's Maritime Innovation Accelerator launching January 2021.

The 11 new startups will form the Accelerator cohort and will be hosted virtually. The online Launch Event is scheduled for January 27th, 2021 and will be open to the public.

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Seattle, WA - After reviewing over 100 applications, Washington Maritime Blue (a Washington State based non-profit) is excited to announce the 11 companies selected to participate in an impact-focused maritime accelerator that will begin in January 2021.

Last year, Maritime Blue and the Port of Seattle announced their plan to launch [Washington's Premier Maritime Accelerator](#) to help spur the innovation necessary to build a thriving maritime economy for generations to come. The success of the pilot year of the program led to over \$32 million dollars of private investment through Angel and VC funding rounds, active demonstration projects, significant increase in reported sales and customer acquisition. The Showcase event attracted over 350 participants and led to 50+ jobs created and retained.

With an interactive launch event scheduled for Wednesday, January 27th from 10am-12pm (PST), 11 new startups will begin a four month program focused on mentorship, resources, and programming to help guide founders through their journey.

Due to COVID-19, the program will be held virtually and will provide the tools, connections, mentorships, and resources to the cohort in order to take their businesses to the next level. Each of the startups gain unique access to Maritime Blue members and stakeholders from industry, public agencies, world leading research institutions and community organizations.

Innovation across Washington's maritime sector is critical for a thriving economy and in the fight to protect our planet and ocean life. These challenges loom large and demand more intentional efforts to ensure solutions are sought by a broader cross-section of companies and individuals, utilizing innovative approaches, such as a maritime accelerator.

We are excited to announce that the following 11 companies will be participating in our world-class Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator program:

Allosense, Inc.

[Allosense](#) provides “always connected” asset trackers using cellular, satellite, and mesh technologies to reduce logistic inefficiencies.

Canscan Tech

[Canscan](#) has developed a system, based on artificial intelligence, machine vision and data analytics that uses existing cameras and infrastructure to automatically inspect containers transiting into or through a terminal.

Future Sight AR

[Future Sight AR](#) is using augmented reality to disrupt the way engineering and construction companies build the infrastructure we rely on everyday.

Lockstep AI

[Lockstep](#) incentivizes good supply chain behavior by providing low-cost supply chain financing for businesses who make sustainable inventory and transportation decisions. Powered by cost-effective IoT and advanced analytics, Lockstep-backed companies can get paid at any point of a shipment's lifecycle and have the confidence to deliver product sustainably.

Marine Construction Technologies

[Marine Construction Technologies'](#) self-attenuating pile system simplifies and expedites marine construction while also reducing environmental impacts.

Mariner Credential Service

[Mariner Credential Service](#) helps professional mariners and active duty service members navigate the complex credentialing process.

OpenTug

[OpenTug](#) provides marine logistics companies with branded sales suites that handle marketing, booking, tracking, and management to allow them to better connect with customers digitally.

Pacific Mobility

[Pacific Mobility Group](#) focuses on the interface between various transportation modes and modal users, and seeks to implement mobility solutions that improve people's lives. Key areas of concentration are vehicle electrification, shared mobility, connected systems, and autonomous technology.

Puget Buoy

[Puget Buoy](#) is developing and testing a new generation of alternative fishing gear that will reduce waste and prevent disruption to migrating whale populations that will benefit the seafood industry.

Silverback Marine

[Silverback Marine](#) is focused on designing and building boats that are primarily intended for research, recovery, and cleanup operations, as well as commercial fishing support vessels.

Virgil Software

[Virgil Software](#) is building a first-of-its-kind service to instantly verify that seafood was legally sourced and meets current regulatory traceability requirements (where applicable); this capability will save industry millions in audit fees, minimize risk of penalties, and demonstrate a commitment to responsible sourcing.

Applicants were reviewed and selected by the Washington Maritime Blue Innovation Advisory Committee who considered, among others, three core areas of focus for the Port and Maritime Blue: help maritime companies innovate and grow, establish Washington as a global leader in maritime innovation, and increase the sustainability and conservation impact of maritime businesses in Washington State and beyond.

Last year, the cohort focused on advancing decarbonization, environmental remediation, maritime workforce protections, sustainability, electrification, digitization, and conservation education. This year, the cohort will focus on carbon offset, clean energy mobility, shipping and port operations efficiency, and manufacturing. These startups come from various sectors, such as augmented reality, machine learning, artificial intelligence, software as service, and compliance. Building on last year's intentional diversity metrics, 45 percent of companies are female founded and we are reaching a national audience as the region's reputation builds as a center of excellence for growth in the blue economy.

To learn more about the program and opportunities to sponsor, mentor and engage with partners and founders, go to www.maritimeblue.org/blue-accelerator. To attend the Second Wave Launch Event, on January 27th, 2021, [register here](#).

About Maritime Blue

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.

About the Port of Seattle:

Founded in 1911, the Port owns and operates Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Fishermen's Terminal—home of the North Pacific fishing fleet—and public marinas. The Port also owns two cruise ship terminals, a grain terminal, real estate assets, and marine cargo terminals through its partnership in the Northwest Seaport Alliance. Port operations help support nearly 200,000 jobs and \$7 billion in wages throughout the region. Over the next 18 years, the port's "Century Agenda" seeks to create an additional 100,000 jobs through economic growth while becoming the nation's leading green and energy-efficient port. Learn more at www.portseattle.org.

About Commerce

Commerce works with local governments, businesses, community-based organizations and tribes to strengthen communities. The department's diverse portfolio of more than 100 programs and effective public and private partnerships promote sustainable community and economic development to help all Washingtonians thrive. For more information, visit <http://www.commerce.wa.gov>. For information on locating or expanding a business in Washington, visit choosewashingtonstate.com.