



## **Washington Maritime Blue's Innovation Accelerator Graduates its Third Cohort, Revealing New Startup Funding and a Product Launch at Upcoming UW Showcase**

*WA Maritime Blue's Innovation Accelerator celebrates the growth and success of its latest cohort's eight graduating startups during its May 26, 2022 event.*

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (May 12, 2022) -- [Washington Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator](#), the global resource to accelerate innovative solutions that benefit maritime and ocean economies, healthy marine and ocean ecosystems, and equitable and resilient communities, celebrates the eight startups from its third Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator. A showcase event will be held May 26, 2022 at the University of Washington to share the cohort's new funding, product launches, and other milestones.

The accelerator program is a one-of-kind intensive mentor-based four-month program focused on helping maritime industry startups learn to scale and grow an equitable and sustainable blue economy. This graduating cohort embodies impact-driven startups focused on cultivating thriving communities as well as a healthy economy and planet.

"This cohort demonstrated both the desire and enthusiasm to innovate in the maritime industry with new groundbreaking technologies and startups" said Josh Carter, Innovation Accelerator Program Director for Maritime Blue. "Seattle is quickly revealing itself as the epicenter for disruptive, influential blue economy innovation, and this cohort's founders are capturing the momentum in place. Because of this, we're seeing an escalation in the number of investors interested in Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator startups."

The program is organized by Maritime Blue, an independent, nonprofit organization building the leadership, infrastructure, and global connections to scale the blue economy. With access to Washington Maritime Blue's network industry and ocean leaders, advisors and mentors, and investors, this exceptional group of Third Wave startups have achieved remarkable growth.

"Maritime Blue's Accelerator program has been an entirely helpful experience," shared Dan Biggs, Founder and CEO of [Steamchain](#), which simplifies payment processes in the multi-trillion dollar transportation and logistics industry. "The breadth, depth and diversity of the mentors and advisors is invaluable. They've helped me effectively communicate the story of Steamchain, and we have built real world connections to subject matter experts to build market awareness and relationships that will last far beyond this cohort."

The combined total of capital investment into startups coming through the accelerator program is now over \$250 million. And the expansion of this particular cohort is undoubtedly tethered to the burgeoning blue economy industry, now valued at over \$1.5 trillion [according to the \*The Economist\*](#).

The cohort's diverse range of tech innovations include trackable cargo gear, sustainably sourced sea-based snack food, electric hydrofoil boards and more. The cohort also has a diverse group of founders,

including four female founders and two founding teams led by people of color. In an industry historically led by white males, Maritime Blue is committed to centering equity so that women, people of color and other underrepresented groups can all share in the benefits of investments made into this region.

“Sea Potential's time in the Washington Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator program has helped us add more structure and organization to our company,” said Savannah Smith, Director of Youth Engagement at [Sea Potential LLC](#), a startup working to cultivate a full cycle of Black Indigenous People Of Color representation in maritime through healing activities and ocean justice conversations. “Specifically, we received valuable advice for time management and for managing our finances. This program also gave us amazing opportunities to network with Port Commissioners, Governor Inslee, the French Delegation, and more.”

This celebratory showcase will highlight the founders' achievements and feature special guest speakers, such as Port of Seattle Commissioner Sam Cho, investors and other prominent panelists sharing insights on the growth of the ecosystem and the future of the blue economy. A sneak peek at a new international accelerator will also be unveiled at the event.

Maritime Blue is now recruiting for its fourth cohort. For more information on the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator and the application process, visit [The Washington Maritime Blue website here](#).

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### **About Washington Maritime Blue**

The Washington Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator is part of Washington Maritime Blue which 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. Learn more at <https://maritimeblue.org/>

**Media Contact:** Eric Schudiske ([eric@s2spr.com](mailto:eric@s2spr.com))

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