



A Strategic Alliance for Maritime Innovation
and a Sustainable Blue Economy



Maritime Blue Launches Fifth Wave of the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator

Meet the four startups accepted to the four-month program receiving investment and acceleration.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (March 13, 2025) -- [Washington Maritime Blue](#), in partnership with [Meliorate Partners](#), proudly announces the launch of its fifth cohort of the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator, affectionately named The Fifth Wave. This four-month, mentor-driven accelerator program brings together founders from Washington, the broader region, and beyond to gain critical skills, connect with key resources, and scale their ocean-based innovations.

"We're thrilled to welcome this next cohort into our growing network of trailblazing alumni, all working to tackle the most pressing challenges in the ocean and maritime industries," said Joshua Berger, President and CEO of Maritime Blue. "These startups are ready for venture capital investment and poised to make significant economic, environmental, and community impacts. To support them, we've designed the Accelerator to provide best-in-class programming, mentorship, and access to our extensive industry cluster—including leading businesses, research institutions, public agencies, and community organizations—along with a clear pathway to capital investment."

Throughout the program, participating startups will engage in global networking events, targeted mentorship, and specialized programming covering business development, messaging and communications, legal frameworks, investment strategies, financing, and growth opportunities. They will gain direct access to Washington Maritime Blue's network of industry leaders, ocean experts, and startup advisors, ensuring they receive world-class guidance and support.

In addition to mentorship and industry connections, each participating startup will receive a \$100,000 investment from Meliorate Partners, an early-stage venture capital firm collaborating closely with Maritime Blue.

"Meliorate Partners is committed to re-imagining economic sectors, investing in better, cheaper, faster innovations that are also better for the environment," said Brock Mansfield, Managing Partner at Meliorate Partners. "For the Maritime Sector, we partnered with Maritime Blue because of their unmatched ecosystem of support. Their accelerator program is truly differentiated, allowing startups to access the complete value chain—from customers and technology providers to regulators and investors—all in one place."

With the Fifth Wave, Washington Maritime Blue and Meliorate Partners continue their mission to accelerate innovation, sustainability, and investment in the blue economy, helping shape the future of the maritime industry.

The companies joining include:



[Cellulotech Inc.](#) is on a mission to create a new world of abundant and competitive biomaterials by "attaching" bio-sourced molecules around cellulose fibers to make them insensitive to water, and more.



[Dolphin Labs](#) is solving the challenge of limited power availability in the ocean with remote, persistent wave power, enabling connectivity & charging for the blue economy.



[{E-LIXR}](#) is building an all-Electric Water Taxi Network, whose platform brings together not only the operators, but also the e-vessel OEMs, charging installers, ride-share apps, 3rd party finance companies, and much more to empower a system that cannot otherwise work in silos.



[MarineSitu](#) cuts environmental monitoring costs in half by helping marine industries reliably see and hear underwater using affordable and proven integrated instrumentation systems: we combine our field tested hardware of cameras, sonar, and other sensors with streamlined software powered by advanced data architecture and machine learning automation.

[You can learn more about the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator on our website.](#)

We welcome supporters of the startup community and future mentors to meet with the founders in the Accelerator and other Blue Ventures programs. A Meet & Greet will be held on April 15, 2025 at the Blue Hub at Fishermen's Terminal in Seattle, WA. [Register.](#)

This year's Annual Blue Ventures Showcase will take place on May 29, 2025 featuring startups from the Accelerator, Seattle and Tacoma Incubators, and One Ocean international program for later-stage companies seeking access to the U.S. market. For more information on the extent of the Blue Ventures programs and links to events, visit the [Washington Maritime Blue website.](#)

Stay up to date on Maritime Blue news on [LinkedIn.](#)

About Maritime Blue

[Maritime Blue](#) is a strategic alliance propelling the Pacific Northwest toward global leadership in ocean-based innovation. We foster collaboration among industry, government, academia, communities, and investors to create sustainable maritime and ocean industries. We empower our region to thrive in the Blue Economy by accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship, centering equity, addressing climate change, restoring marine ecosystems, and building a diverse workforce. Strategic focus areas include maritime decarbonization, renewable ocean energy, sustainable fisheries and seafood, healthy ocean ecosystems, and digital solutions.

About Meliorate Partners

[Meliorate Partners](#) is re-imagining economic sectors by investing in better/cheaper/faster innovations that are better for the environment. They have been investing at the founder stage of



Climate and Sustainability startups since 2015, writing first checks into multiple emerging sector including Tidal Vision (chitosan), It's Electric (urban EV charging), Algenosis (algae-based materials), Public Goods (e-commerce), Blue Nalu (cell-based seafood), Hilos (shoes), Simplifyber (cellulose-based fashion), Inversa Leathers (invasive species management) and Blumen Systems (renewables permitting).

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