

OCEAN INNOVATORS PLATFORM

SPEAKERS



Jeff Stoike

Co-Founder, Blue Action Lab

Jeffrey has a PhD in International Sustainable Development from the Yale School of the Environment, where he conducted his doctoral research on coastal communities and marine environments in Brazil and Panama. This research has informed his subsequent policy-making and institution-building for non-profit organizations and federal agencies, as well as in the private sector. He has over two decades of experience in international development as a researcher, entrepreneur and consultant. He developed the place-based impact investing and climate philanthropy projects at the Urban Institute in Washington DC and worked on corporate diplomacy in Silicon Valley while at the U.S. State Department. He is Co-Founder of Blue Action Lab and Blue Action Ventures which, through a joint venture with Founders Factory, has launched the Blue Action Accelerator.



Lisa Hubert

Investment Director, Mirova

Lisa is an investment director for the Sustainable Ocean Fund, managed by Mirova. She has been working for Mirova since 2016, where she has sourced, structured and managed multiple transactions in the sustainable agriculture, forestry & ocean space. She had also an active role in business development with the design and structuring of new impact funds dedicated to investing into natural capital assets in emerging and developed countries. Since 2020, she has been fully dedicated to the Sustainable Ocean Fund where she has led and closed 6 transactions out of the 14 portfolio company, mainly in Latam and SE Asia. Lisa has 4 board positions with investees. Before joining Mirova, Lisa worked for the FAO, IFAD and the World Bank as an economist and portfolio manager, focusing on climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, inclusive finance & infrastructure in Africa, MENA and Central Asia. She was actively involved at operational level where she gained significant field and execution experience while leading research work on gender, climate adaptation, behavioral economics and RCT studies. She navigated complex situations, engaging with different stakeholders including farmers, industries, financiers, policy makers, researchers and the civil society. She also worked in Colombia and linking large public conditional transfer programmes to financial inclusion and entrepreneurship. Lisa graduated from Science Po in Risk and Quality Management (MBA) and holds an MSc in Agricultural Development and Economic Policies from Panthéon-Sorbonne University. She is fluent in French, English and Spanish. She lived in Mexico, Colombia and Italia.



Ben Lesage

Global Coordinator, Sustainable Ocean Alliance

Benjamin Lesage is passionate about the ocean and is an expert in technology and innovation. He has been an active startups' mentor at SOA since 2018 and is now in charge of partnerships and coordinating SOA activities in Europe, where he is based. Prior to joining SOA full-time, Ben worked for the innovation studio of BNP Paribas in Silicon Valley. In this tenure, he would provide advisory services to the Bank and large European corporations on their open innovation and startups engagement strategy. He is the author of the first study dedicated to Ocean Technology startups, and was invited to share his work in various media and events such as Hello Tomorrow and La Mer XXL. Benjamin lived for more than 10 years in Canada and in the US and is knowledgeable about both North American and European business ecosystems. Benjamin enjoys spending his free time sailing and surfing.



Alexis Grosskopf

1000 Ocean Startups Steering Committee, Ocean Hub Africa CEO

Alexis is the Founder and CEO of OceanHub Africa (OHA), an ocean-impact accelerator focusing on strengthening the development and adoption of new sustainable ocean solutions in Africa. He holds a BEng in Mechanical Engineering from King's College and an MSc in Environmental Engineering from Imperial College London. Former management and sustainable development consultant, he subsequently led R&D and intrapreneurship innovation efforts for a blue-chip construction company in Europe before moving to South Africa in 2017. He then led the development of a social-impact incubator focusing on digital technologies before launching OceanHub Africa in 2019.



Jean Castellini

Minister of Finance and Economy

Jean Castellini is the Minister of Finance and Economy for the Principality of Monaco. He was appointed by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco and took up his position on the 26th of December 2012. Prior to his current position, from 2009 to 2012, Mr. Castellini was the Chief Executive Officer of the J. Safra Bank (Monaco). In his early career, he worked nine years for Barra, the world's leading risk analytics provider for investment portfolios. Then from 1998 to 2004, he worked in Paris for Russell Investments, a leader in investment advice for institutional investors. He returned to Monaco in 2004 where during the first two years, he set up his own consultancy Investment Research providing services in economic and financial matters to both the Prince's Government and to the National Council. He was then appointed by The Prince to advise The Prince's Cabinet from 2006 to 2007. Then appointed Secretary General of the Monaco Financial Services Authority (CCAF) until 2009.



Micol Chiesa

Climate Tech Investor and Head of Climate Science, Planet Fund

Micol is Partner and Head of Climate Science at Planet Fund, a leading early-stage climate tech VC fund. She sits on the technical advisory board of several companies, including Dovetail - a pioneer in enabling the financial sector's response to climate change and water issues. Micol was Head of Impact Investing at Five Seasons Ventures, the largest food-tech impact fund in Europe, and spent several years at Bain and Company helping fast-moving innovators scale with purpose in the private equity and energy and resources industries. Micol holds an MA in environmental economics from Johns Hopkins SAIS, Energy Resources and Environment Programme, and a PhD in environmental finance from the University of Oxford, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment.



Rita Sousa

Partner, Faber Ocean

Rita Sousa is Partner of the Ocean / Climate Tech Fund at Faber, a Lisbon based VC firm investing in outstanding entrepreneurs who innovate at the intersection of science and technology to drive digital transformation and climate action. The firm combines a specialist focus on deep tech early-stage startups with dedicated funds, investment teams and expert advisors to actively help founders build global companies powered by AI/data or Ocean/Climate Tech. With more than 8 years experience in VC, she co-leads the Ocean/Climate tech fund investments in deep tech early stage startups aiming for positive impact on ocean sustainability, climate action and decarbonization of the global economy. Prior to joining the VC industry, Rita worked in the energy and utilities sector, in innovation and CRM consultancy, in multinational companies such as Veolia, Altran and ABB. In parallel, she has also been working with the European Commission as a Jury member of several Entrepreneurship funding programs such as the EIC Accelerator Pilot. Rita has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Lisbon, an MSc. in Energy Systems from the University of Strathclyde, an MBA from AESE/IESE Business School and a Master in Finance from Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics.



Lian Michelson

Investment Director, Vala Capital

Lian is an Investment Director at Vala Capital, investing in impact and climate focused early stage UK startups, and Founding Partner at the United Ocean Fund - a new global, early stage, ocean tech VC fund. She is also an impact angel investor in 20+ companies, and has worked with funds such as US-based Conscience VC as a Venture Partner focusing on the intersection of deep tech and consumer, and startup accelerator Antler as a Capital Advisor. Previously, Lian founded a fashion tech marketplace and ran the UK expansion of a European fintech company as their UK CEO. Lian started her career as a Fixed Income trader for Morgan Stanley where she managed \$bn+ portfolio, and holds a Master's degree in Computer Science.



Damian Payiatakis

Head of sustainable and impact investing, Barclays

Damian leads Barclays efforts to guide individuals, families, and charities on how to invest both to protect and grow their assets and to make a positive contribution to our world. His team advises the firm's private and public market specialists on how to incorporate ethical, responsible and impact approaches into their products, portfolios, and services. His team's work has been recognised by the UK Cabinet Office and Investment Week's Sustainable Investment Awards, as well as the UK National Advisory Board on Impact Investing. Damian was part of the UK Government's Taskforce on the topic and is a frequent commentator in publications such as Financial Times, CNN Money, Reuters, as well as a speaker at impact investing conferences. His work as an intrapreneur has featured in Harvard Business Review. Damian graduated from Brandeis University summa cum laude with Highest Honours. He also holds both a M.A. in International Economics & Finance from Brandeis International Business School and a M.Sc. in Organisational & Social Psychology from the London School of Economics.



Rupert Hayward

Director Grand Bahama Port Authority / Blue Action Lab

Rupert, a Bahamian and British national, is Founder and President at the Blue Action Lab and Blue Action Ventures and a board director and IC member of the Blue Action Accelerator, a JV with Founders Factory. He is an executive director of the Grand Bahama Port Authority and the Grand Bahama Disaster Relief Foundation. He is also an advisor to Global Harvester Holdings, a UK green merchant bank. He holds a Govt appointed board seat on The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund and is an advisor to the University of The Bahamas, on climate and resilience. He brings more than 20 years of international investment experience in both emerging and developed markets. He is one of the original partners at Salamanca Group, a British merchant bank. Rupert, alongside his partners, spent almost 10 years building the business from a boutique investment advisory firm into a fully-fledged merchant bank, which included the merger of a risk consulting business (S-RM), the acquisition of Investec bank's trust business, and the development of 19 offices worldwide. He completed his MA (Hons) in Geography — Caribbean Development — at Edinburgh University, UK, in 2003, and has an MBA in Sustainable Business Management from Presidio Graduate School, San Francisco.



Kelly Erhart

Co-founder and President, Vesta

Kelly Erhart is Co-founder and President of Vesta, an ocean-based carbon dioxide removal company. Kelly's work has focused on the commercialization of sustainable technologies and climate solutions through non-profit, for-profit, and hybrid organizations.



Dale Galvin

Managing Director, Global Fund for Coral Reefs

Over his career, Dale Galvin has served in a variety of leadership roles in the international conservation, finance, investment, and technology sectors. His positions have included Fund Manager of the Meloy Fund I, LP, Chief Operating Officer of Rare, an international conservation organization, and Chief Financial Officer of PA Consulting Group North America. Galvin holds a B.A. in Economics from Cornell University and an M.B.A. from the MIT Sloan School of Management. Mr. Galvin is the Managing Partner of Deliberate Capital LLC, a subadvisor to Pegasus and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs.



James Lindsay

Principal, Builders Vision

James Lindsay is dedicated to investing in sustainable businesses and investment platforms at Builders Initiative. Major focus areas include investing & supporting startups and fund managers addressing ocean sustainability, as well as the energy transition & climate justice.



Sara Andreotti

Chief Operation Officer, Shark Safe Barrier

Dr Sara Andreotti is a marine biologist, extraordinary lecturer of Stellenbosch University, working toward the development of a global long-term management system and conservation plan for sharks since 2009. She completed her PhD at Stellenbosch University in March 2015; her research involved genetic techniques and photographic identification to better assess the population status and dispersal events of South African white sharks. The outcome was the first national assessment of white shark population numbers and genetic structure, and the genetic work recently expanded in an international collaboration with the University of Queensland and Flinders University (Australia). Sara is now focusing on her own research and more recently also supervising two PhD and three Master students. Further, following her passion for shark conservation, Sara co-founded SharkSafe Barriers (Pty) Ltd, a South African company aiming to provide an eco-friendly and shark-specific technology to keep swimmers and surfers safe from large predatory sharks; she is one of the four co-inventors of the SharkSafe Barrier™, a patented technology which successfully bio-mimics the visual effects of a kelp forest and combines this with a series of permanent magnetic stimuli to form a barrier that dissuades sharks from passing through, without affecting other marine life. The SharkSafe Barrier™ aims to be the ultimate solution for a peaceful coexistence between beach goers and large sharks, for rejuvenating both the local ecology and tourism of coastal areas. Sara is currently the COO and one of the Founding Directors of SharkSafe Barrier Pty Ltd.



Marc García-Durán Huet

Executive President and Founder, Underwater Gardens

Marc is the Executive President and Founder of Underwater Gardens International, a company that makes Ocean regeneration, adaptation, and mitigation to Climate Change financially viable while promoting local socioeconomic growth. This initiative has been presented at COP27, at the ADSFF, has received the UN Ocean Decade Endorsement, as well as the financial support of Private Investors, ENISA (Spanish Government), Horizon Europe program (European Commission) and is sponsored by BNP PARIBAS. UGI is formed by a multidisciplinary network of professionals and experts with wide international recognition that integrates a scientific and business perspective.



Thomas LeQuinquis

Marketing Director, Lancaster

Thomas oversees the global innovation strategy of the Lancaster brand, both for Skincare & Suncare. Working in close partnership with the Lancaster laboratories based in Monaco, he defines the pipeline of new products that will be sold around the world, from Monaco all the way to China. He sees business as a force for good, and finds purpose in developing planet-friendly, innovative solutions that enhance people's lives and well-being whilst continuously raising the bar in terms of sustainability. When it comes to sustainability, Thomas firmly believes that businesses have a responsibility to strive to perpetually elevate their sustainability ambitions, leveraging innovation to drive real progress. He is really proud to work for Coty, a company that is pushing the entire cosmetics industry to put sustainability at the heart of their strategies.



Ingrid Maurstad

Impact Director, Katapult Ocean

Ingrid Maurstad is the Impact Director of Katapult Ocean, a Norwegian Impact investment firm. With a global scope, Katapult Ocean invests in and accelerates startups that have a positive impact on the ocean. Ingrid has an MSc in Economics and Business Administration from NHH Norwegian School of Economics and Entrepreneurship studies from Wits Business School in South Africa. She has previously worked with investment in social entrepreneurship in the Norwegian family-owned investment company Ferd and has also extensive experience from funding social impact projects in The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports.



Sam Teicher

Co-Founder and Chief Reef Officer, Coral Vita

Sam Teicher is the Co-Founder and Chief Reef Officer of Coral Vita, a social enterprise that grows resilient corals in months instead of decades to restore dying reefs and winner of Prince William's inaugural Revive Our Oceans Earthshot Prize. Coral reefs sustain up to one billion people's livelihoods and 25% of marine life while providing an estimated \$2.7 trillion of value per year through goods and services. But half of reefs are dead and over 90% are on track to die by 2050. Through a commercial model that sells coral restoration as a service to reef-dependent customers, Coral Vita works to catalyze a Restoration Economy to support large-scale restoration. Their first coral farm is in Grand Bahama, and they ultimately envision land-based facilities in every nation with reefs to preserve these ecosystems for future generations. Sam previously worked on climate resiliency initiatives at the White House and for the Global Island Partnership, is a Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneur, co-authored Sustainable Development Goal 14, launched Coral Vita out of his master's program at Yale, and has been in love with the ocean since becoming a scuba diver as a child.



Nico Rosberg

2016 Formula One World Champion, awarded Sustainability Entrepreneur and Greentech Investor

Nico Rosberg - 2016 Formula One World Champion - is an awarded Sustainability Entrepreneur and Greentech Investor. Guided by his passion to inspire communities and accelerate green innovation, he Co-founded the Greentech Festival. A global platform for changemakers and green technologies. He is an advocate for sustainable mobility and invests in green solutions across different industries to drive positive change for the benefit of both the environment and future generations.



Carrie Chan

Co-Founder and CEO, AVANT

Carrie is a seasoned business executive with a passion for the environment, particularly the impact of our food supply on the planet. With experiences in strategy and general management, she also managed major greenfield Capex projects from conception to revenue-generating operations. She is a Bloomberg New Economy Catalyst 2022 and holds MBA from INSEAD. Carrie co-founded Avant with Dr Mario Chin in 2018 in Hong Kong, the first cultivated fish company in Asia, and expanded to Singapore in 2021. Avant's technology offers a system to produce nutritious, tasty fish and functional proteins directly from fish cells at economically viable costs. The group's end-to-end technology platform also allows continuous new product development from scratch to production. At Avant, Carrie provides the vision, guides the strategy and supervises the implementation.



Simon Hazell

Co-Founder and CEO, INSECO

Inseco is an insect company. Using industrial-scale biotechnology, we convert organic by-products (i.e. food waste) into insect-based protein, oil and fertiliser at our state of the art 10,000m² facility in Cape Town, South Africa. Our protein and oil products have applications in aquaculture, animal feed, and pet food, and are cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to conventional ingredients such as fishmeal, soybean meal and fish-oil. Our fertiliser product is carbon negative, and enhances the quality of the soil, stimulates microbial activity and supports plant defences. Using cutting edge technology, we are responding to the demand for sustainable and high-quality ingredients to feed a rapidly growing global population.



Ofek Ron

CEO, Plantish

Ofek Ron is the CEO & Co-Founder of Plantish. A passionate entrepreneur and animal activist, Ofek started his journey in tech by founding an event production company that was merged with a software distribution company, where he spent years being their CEO and growing the team. During this time, he became a board member at a non-profit organization called Vegan-Friendly, where he later joined full time and became the Vice President of Business Development, working with multinational corporations such as Nestle, Pepsico, and Unilever on launching their plant-based products in the Israeli market. He was also instrumental in founding the UK Vegan Friendly branch. Ofek graduated from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya with a degree in Economics and Business. Ofek lives in Tel Aviv, Israel and is married to Adva, and father to Arbel and Agam.



Dan Watson

CEO, Safety Net Technologies

Eternal optimist and engineer, now CEO working in the fisheries space to build technologies to enable Precision Fishing in support of SDG14. Co-built SafetyNet Technologies into a company that designs and produces robust, user-friendly and affordable hardware and software solutions that make fishing better operated and better understood and help tackle the multi-billion-\$ issue of unsustainable fishing. Committed to working with our end-customers and users to design products that do what's needed to make measurable and lasting positive impacts in the ocean. We won't get there alone - let's collaborate.



Natalie Gartmann

ESG and Impact Manager, Pegasus Capital Advisors

Natalie Gartmann is the ESG & Impact Manager of Pegasus. Prior to joining Pegasus, Ms. Gartmann was a Consultant at the global management consulting firm Sustainerv where she advised companies on integrating sustainability into long-term strategies, everyday operations, and reporting. She has a strong background in the financial sector, which includes developing and implementing responsible investment policies, integrating ESG into investment decision-making processes, and conducting impact assessments. Ms. Gartmann holds a Master's in Management from HEC Paris and a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs from the University of St. Gallen.



Johaness Bochdalofsky

Founder, SEAH4

Johannes is an experienced engineer who has devoted his 17-year career to the ocean. He has a proven track record as project manager on large-scale coastal developments, established a reputation for successful salvages, and contributed to develop a sophisticated AI system for navigating ships in rough waters. Johannes is currently on a mission to reduce the carbon emissions of the long distance transport sector with his new venture, SEAH4. His ambition is to replace fossil fuels with a carbon-neutral alternative which involves community-led algae farming in desert areas on a large scale. By applying his engineering expertise and passion for the ocean, Johannes is determined to make his part for a blueEr future.



Danielle Southcott

Founder and CEO, Veer

Founder of the award-winning SAILCARGO INC. and Veer Group (which is nominated for the EarthShot prize), Danielle was named by the Royal Institute of Naval Architects as one of the most influential women of the past century, and was listed by The Ocean Opportunity Lab as an inspirational female founder to watch. Originally from the Great Lakes of Canada, Danielle began sailing at age 13. A graduate of the "Enkhuizer" Sea Academy, she learned Dutch to graduate. She obtained her 200T masters ticket at the age of 21 which empowered her to captain of the flagship of Barbados, cargo schooner RUTH. Danielle wrote and implemented the successful beach-launch of RUTH, which was the largest ship built in the history of the country. She is co-founder of a Costa Rican non-profit that plants thousands of trees and creates jobs in a vulnerable coastal community. Each year Danielle's company sponsors a young lady to sail on the tallship ST. LAWRENCE II – a "thank you" to the Canadian ship that first inspired her.



Miguel Navalón

Founder, Navlandis

Miguel Navalón, CEO of Navlandis, is a MSc Civil Engineer by the Politechnical University of Valencia, and graduated as MBA by ESIC, Business & Marketing School. Previously, he was co-founder and managing partner of ENNiA, a company offering technical services in engineering, architecture and urban planning, complementing his activity as Associate Professor at University Jaume I in Castellón. Now, Miguel is founder and CEO of Navlandis, a startup with a strong R&D component, focused in logistics technologies, that dreams in a more efficient and sustainable transport. His first development is Zbox a new patented foldable container, to optimize the relocation of empty containers, reducing their operating costs and their environmental impact. Zbox has the same features than the standard container, but it can be folded when it's empty, and bundled 5 containers in the volume of 1, reducing 50% of the cost, 80% of space, and 20% of CO₂ emissions.



Sebastian Heitmann

Co Founder, Extantia Capital

Sebastian is co-founder of Extantia Capital, a €300m climate first investment platform backing founders of breakthrough technologies that accelerate a transition to a decarbonized world and thus enable long term growth within planetary boundaries.



Børge Bjørneklett

Founder and CEO, Ocean Sun

Dr. Børge Bjørneklett is founder and CEO of Ocean Sun and has worked in the automotive, offshore O&G and the solar industries. In 2016 he founded Ocean Sun based on an invention for floating solar plants. Ocean Sun has 15 employees and is listed on the Oslo Exchange. Ocean Sun has built floating solar power plants in Norway, Singapore, Philippines, Albania and China. Børge has a PhD in Materials Science.



Tom Birbeck

Founder and CEO, ARC Marine

Tom Birbeck is the founder & CEO of ARC Marine with a background in commercial diving, aquaculture and sustainable fishing. Tom is also a keen sailor, having raced competitively both nationally and internationally. ARC Marine is an innovative eco engineering company whose mission is to accelerate reef creation on an unprecedented scale. Tom has successfully led the company through a seed round of investment of \$2.5m and the R&D phase of Reef Cubes®, while establishing ARC Marine in the “climate tech” sector in which it gains momentum. ARC is preparing for Series A investment with an ideal investor consortium of marine conservationists and strategic partners in marine construction with a broad demographic to help realise their global plans. ARC Marine’s vision is to pioneer the opportunity to convert every offshore construction & coastal project into a thriving marine ecosystem.



William Janssen

CEO, Desalenator

William Janssen is Founder and CEO of Desolenator. With a background in Mechanical Engineering, he spent most of his early career in Project Managing large infrastructure project, building airport terminals in East-Asia and the Middle East. It was in Abu Dhabi where William had the original Eureka moment for the Desolenator integrated direct solar desalination concept. Since then the company has grown from strength to strength and has now completed their first project at the Jebel Ali station for DEWA in Dubai and several more project underway. William will be able to share specific knowledge on sustainability desalination and brine management through the principle of Zero-liquid discharge.



Maya Kashapov

Business Development, Captura

Maya Kashapov is on the Business Development team at Captura, driving its Direct Ocean Capture technology from the concept phase through to global commercial deployment. She holds a Master’s degree in Climate Change from the Climate School at Columbia University in New York City and was a Founding Fellow at Climatebase, a talent mobilization platform focused on accelerating climate solutions. Captura draws down planet-warming CO₂ from the atmosphere via the ocean, offering a tool that can remove any emission from anywhere on the planet and from any moment in time. The only inputs needed for the process are ocean water and renewable electricity, with no by-products produced. California-based Captura was founded in 2021 and offers safe, durable, additional, scalable, and verifiable carbon removal at a low cost and global scale. The technology can also be used to address ocean acidification in localized areas. Captura has been named as a Carbon Removal XPRIZE Milestone Award winner and was awarded a pre-purchase contract from Frontier Climate.



Shruti Iyengar

Investment Manager, Future Planet Capital

Shruti Iyengar is an Investment Manager at Future Planet Capital where she works on the UK Innovation and Science Seed Fund as well as the Blue Ocean Mandate. Prior to joining FPC, she was an Investor with an early-stage climate tech fund, Sustainable Ventures, where she managed a portfolio of 36 companies, lead their 12 month-long Accelerator programme, and built out their impact measurement practice. Shruti is also the co-founder of Climate Mosaic, an initiative focussed on empowering currently underrepresented investors and founders solving climate challenges, by providing them a close-knit community and peer group support. Shruti began her career in Singapore where she worked with organizations across Southeast Asia including UN Women, Singapore International Foundation, and DBS Foundation to build out their impact investing and measurement strategies. Through her work with the Government of Singapore she helped them deliver and measure the impact of their SME innovation/grant programmes across sectors from environment/water tech to precision engineering, and also mentored early-stage founders across sustainability and health as part of numerous incubators. Shruti holds a dual degree in Mathematics and Economics from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and is a Women’s Merit Scholar from London Business School’s master’s in finance programme.



Rodrigo Garcia Gonzalez

Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Notpla

Rodrigo is an inventor, designer, architect and engineer. He has a Master of Architecture with Honours from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, as well as postgraduate qualifications from the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University (India), Industrial Design at Pontificia Universidad Católica (Chile), the Umeå Institute of Design, Imperial College London and the Royal College of Art. Prior to Ooho he invented and developed different patents on structural and deployable systems, following suitcases, and other products. As a lecturer, he has collaborated with different institutions such as Cornell University (USA), CEPT (India) and Kingston University(UK). He won the Gold Medal in the 2nd Improvisation World Championship celebrated in 2009 Santiago de Chile, has been awarded with the National Dyson Design Award, the British-Spanish Society-Telefonica Award, and has won the GAUDI European Competition on Sustainable Architecture three times. In addition to that, as Co-CEO and cofounder of Notpla, he won the Prince William’s £1,000,000 Earthshot Prize in 2022



Joost den Haan

Co-Founder and CEO, planblue

Joost is CEO and Co-founder at planblue. He's been an active diver for 17+ years and has seen the seafloor literally degrade in front of his eyes. His passion for protecting our oceans initially drove him down a scientific path (MSc, PhD, postdoc). In 2017, he started the company planblue with his co-founders, raising significant public and private investments to literally put the seafloor on the map again. Why? The seafloor plays a key role in mitigating the climate crisis, as it harbours the best carbon sequestration tools nature has to offer, such as seagrass meadows. To help unlock the economic and ecological potential of the seafloor, planblue developed the world's first underwater satellite and associated software platform, the SeafloorAtlas. By combining advanced imaging, underwater navigation and AI, planblue ground-truths aerial and satellite imagery to, for example, help unlock blue carbon credits on a global scale - starting with seagrass meadows. Joost has given talks worldwide, including a TEDx, to champion the seafloor's protection and sustainable use.



Philippe Despres

University of Laval

Prof Philippe Després is a High-Performance Computing (HPC) expert, who pioneered the use of massively parallel calculation platforms in accelerating algorithms in medicine, such as tomographic reconstruction in radiology and dose calculations in radiation oncology. As a HPC expert, he is heavily involved in the development of digital research infrastructures, FAIR-compliant research data management, and data-driven projects at the interface of artificial intelligence and health. He is the Director of the Big Data Research Center at Université Laval and the co-lead of the Health axis of the International observatory on the societal impacts of AI and digital technology (OBVIA). Prof Després is also a member of the Researcher Council of the Digital Research Alliance of Canada.



Jean Marc Temmos

CEO, Semantic TS

Jean-Marc TEMMOS is 49 years old, married, and has two children. After a scientific education, including preparatory classes and SEATECH engineering school, he had the opportunity to participate, in the early 2000s, in the launch of a startup in digital cartography. A period of exciting expansion began, since the startup grew from 6 to over 100 people (incidentally with 2 fundraisings). This era ended with the acquisition of the startup by a large American car equipment supplier. He then led research and innovation programs and fostered greater organizational innovation capabilities. 8 years ago, missing the independence and reactivity of SMEs, he decided to take over the management of SEMANTICTS, an engineering service provider in environment and oceanography. After 8 years as the CEO and the tripling of the turnover, the company is still growing and has several activities including Oceanography, Underwater Acoustics, Software development and AI dedicated to the monitoring of the maritime environment, for both civil and military applications.



George Richards

Director. Community Jameel

George Richards is the Director of Community Jameel, an independent, global organisation advancing science to help communities thrive in a rapidly changing world. Prior to becoming Director in 2020, George led strategy for the organisation from 2015 and was head of heritage programmes at Art Jameel, the arts and culture organisation, with responsibility for initiatives in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and beyond, sustaining traditional cultural practices, supporting architectural preservation, and digitally recording heritage. An Arabist specialising in the archaeoastronomy of pre-Islamic Arabia, George has undertaken field expeditions to document cultural heritage on behalf of the British Library and the British Institute for the Study of Iraq, and has served as the special rapporteur for cultural heritage to the Kurdistan Regional Government; a specialist assessor to the British government's Cultural Protection Fund; and a senior fellow at the Iraqi government's cultural heritage commission, Iraq Heritage. George took a First in Arabic and Persian from the University of Edinburgh in 2003. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and a trustee of The Prince's Foundation.



Kortney Opshaug

Founder and CEO. Blue Ocean Gear

Kortney Opshaug is the CEO of Blue Ocean Gear, a California-based technology company focused on Smart Buoys for commercial fishing fleets to track gear on the ocean. The data from these products allow harvesters to know where their gear is at all times, reducing gear loss and fuel use, while also providing critical information for fisheries and adjacent ocean industries. She founded the company in 2015 and has led the growth of the business and product development through close collaboration with fishers throughout North America, as well as fostered partnerships with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, Canada's DFO, and NOAA. Today, Blue Ocean Gear has delivered over 700 Smart Buoys to fisheries around North America, providing data-driven insights to customers, and is positioned to scale the business in new markets.