

## NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2018**

### **Top Twelve Solution Finalists for Two \$100,000 Awards Are Announced**

The eighth annual Ocean Exchange, held in Savannah, Georgia, will feature twelve worldwide solutions with the ability to generate economic growth and increase productivity while reducing the use of nature's resources and the production of waste.

The innovators will present the solutions and compete for one of two \$100,000 awards from worldwide sponsor Wallenius Wilhelmsen, and sponsors Gulfstream Aerospace, the Littlejohn Family Foundation, Bunge, Savannah Economic Development Authority, Georgia Ports Authority, Georgia Power, Oceaneering and other contributors.

This year's *Solutions Inspiring Action* are from four different countries:

**Ashored Innovations** (Nova Scotia, Canada) - Ashored's MOBI (Modular Ocean Based Instrument) system is a bottom-bound ropeless fishing system that prevents whale entanglements and trap loss, where damaged traps become ocean waste.

**Blue Nalu** (CA, USA) - Blue Nalu is a pioneer in cellular aquaculture, in which living cells are isolated from fish tissue, placed into culture media for proliferation, and then assembled into fresh and frozen seafood products.

**Blue Ocean Gear** (CA, USA) - Blue Ocean Gear developed a Smart Buoy that enables fishermen to know where their gear is at all times, sending an alert if the gear moves away from where it was set, helping save money from lost equipment and reducing ghost fishing gear which can be harmful to the environment.

**Coral Vita** (Freeport, Bahamas) - Coral Vita's land-based farms integrate new methods to accelerate coral growth, while enhancing resiliency to changing environmental conditions.

**Graphite Innovations and Technology** (Nova Scotia, Canada) - GIT developed marine coating materials which utilize graphene to create a formula that protects ship hulls from corrosion and biofouling.

**Hoopers Island Oyster Co** (MD, USA) - Hooper's Island Oyster Co developed a vertically integrated oyster aquaculture system that provides new and established growers with seed, grow-out equipment, and processing equipment to support oysterpreneurs.

**Jolt Energy Storage Technologies** (MI, USA) - Jolt developed a new and highly scalable battery technology where no expensive catalysts or selective membranes are required.

**MicroSynbiotiX** (Cork, Ireland) - MicroSynbiotiX helps solve the current fish vaccine challenge by engineering microalgae to lock the vaccine in the biomass which are a natural part of the fish diet and an essential dietary element in the early development of shrimp and fin-fish.

**OceanComm** (IL, USA) - OceanComm has developed a wireless underwater modem that offers communication similar to Wi-Fi, negating the need for tethered communication links.

**Osmo Systems** (CA, USA) - The Osmobot integrates a series of well-proven photochemical sensors into a single, low-cost robust probe, improving aquaculture management and monitoring.

**Pajarito Powder** (NM, USA) - Pajarito Powder developed catalyst and engineered catalyst supports for improved Proton Exchange Membranes in fuel cells and electrolyzers, facilitating energy-dense onboard energy storage of electricity.

**ThisFish** (British Columbia, Canada) - Built for the seafood processing sector, Tally is simple, user-friendly software that enables companies to digitize all their production, traceability and quality control data, using visual data dashboards and data analytics.

These innovators will compete for one of these awards:

- **The WW Orcelle® Award 2018** will be given to the solution that can make our (WW) logistic operations more sustainable by advancing high-efficiency or zero-emission technologies that are commercially viable.
- The **Neptune Award 2018** will be given to the solution that advances our understanding of the ocean and that helps minimize our impact on these resources, even while using them for human benefit, resulting in more resilient bodies of water, including healthy marine life and coastlines.

**Ocean Exchange™** accelerates the adoption of solutions that help economies, health and the environment, while respecting cultures around the world.

**The Wallenius Wilhelmsen (OEX: WWL)** group is a market leader in RoRo shipping and vehicle logistics, transporting cars, trucks, rolling equipment and breakbulk around the world. The company operates around 130 vessels servicing 32 trade routes to six continents, and operates a global inland distribution network, 77 processing centers, and 13 marine terminals. The Wallenius Wilhelmsen group consists of Wallenius Wilhelmsen Ocean, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Solutions, EUKOR and ARC. The group is headquartered in Oslo, Norway with 7.500 employees in 29 countries worldwide. Read more at [walleniuswilhelmsen.com](http://walleniuswilhelmsen.com).

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Join us at Ocean Exchange in Savannah, GA USA October 7-9, 2018 to meet our twelve finalists. Register at <http://www.oceanexchange.org/event-registration/>