



## Ocean Exchange to Open Applications for Its Collegiate Award in March

**Fort Lauderdale, Fla., January 18, 2023** - The [Ocean Exchange](#), a leader in supporting the acceleration of innovative solutions for healthy oceans and the sustainable blue economy, announces that applications for its 2023 Ocean Exchange Collegiate Award will open in March.

The Collegiate Award, which carries a monetary prize of \$10,000 USD, is part of Ocean Exchange's annual program that recognizes and helps advance innovation in technologies aimed at the health of our oceans and the Blue Economy. It is given to the solution that advances our understanding of the ocean and helps minimize our impact on these resources.

As its name implies, the Collegiate Award is presented to a company in its earlier stages of development. Over the past seven years, seven prior finalists and winners have been named to Forbes 30 Under 30 in their fields.

"We are happy to announce that the application process for this prestigious award will open in March. The full timeline will soon be available on our [website](#). We encourage interested parties to [subscribe to Navigator](#), our free newsletter, for timely updates about this and our other awards and programs," said Millicent Pitts, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Ocean Exchange.

The winner of the 2022 Collegiate Award was BlueGreen Materials, a company focused on making building materials, such as carbon-negative bio-concrete, from the ocean. Chief Executive Marcelo Lejeune founded BlueGreen Materials after studying chemical engineering at Yale University, a relationship that enabled him to qualify for this prestigious award.

Previous winners include Twelve, the recipient of Ocean Exchange's 2015 Collegiate Award—an entry made by three Stanford students. Today, Twelve is using carbon dioxide, water and renewable energy to create a wide range of materials and fuels traditionally created using fossil fuels. The company recently entered into a partnership with Virgin Voyages that will enable it to scale the production of E-Marine™, the newest sustainable fuel made using its carbon transformation technology.

Another success story is Vita Inclinata® Technologies Inc., the winner of the 2018 Collegiate Award, presented to a team from Seattle University. The company creates innovative load stabilization technology for helicopters and cranes, providing safer tools to prevent occupational injuries, initially showcasing at Ocean Exchange safe at-sea rescues from helicopters. Today, Vita Inclinata Technologies includes Vita Aerospace™ and Vita Industrial™. It is headquartered in Broomfield, Colorado with additional offices in the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Washington, DC, and Silicon Valley, California.

## **About Ocean Exchange**

Ocean Exchange is a global ecosystem whose mission is to accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions for healthy oceans and the sustainable blue economy. A 501(c)(3), Ocean Exchange fulfills this mission through a rigorous, multi-level program that includes annual monetary awards, promoting registered Solutions Inspiring Action across multiple communication channels, and facilitating access to the global network comprising its Board of Directors, Delegates, Solutions Review Team, Executive Team and other experts from around the world. Ocean Exchange's mission is funded by private donations including those from Wallenius Wilhelmsen, Royal Caribbean, Schmidt Marine Technology Partners, Oceankind, Marine Research Hub of South Florida, Oceaneering, Angus Littlejohn, Jr. Family, and others who share the passion for healthy oceans. To learn more, visit [Oceanexchange.org](http://Oceanexchange.org).

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