

Oceanology International to celebrate 50th anniversary at Oi Americas this February

- Marking Oi's 50-year journey in ocean science and technology, from its roots in Brighton, to London and San Diego via Shanghai and Qingdao



The 2017 debut event in San Diego

London, 10 January 2019 – Oceanology International (Oi), the world's foremost series of ocean science and technology events, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at Oceanology International Americas 2019 (OiA), which returns to the San Diego Convention Centre from 25- 27 February 2019. Following the successful inaugural event in February 2017, the biennial OiA conference and exhibition is once again organised in association with the Maritime Alliance and promises to deliver even more exhibitors and visitors alongside its perennially in-depth and tightly curated conference tracks.

While the half-century milestone will be marked throughout OiA, a dedicated conference program covering the historical and technological advances that Oceanology International has played host to over the years will take place on the final day. This one-off [event](#) is free to attend and will run on the exhibition floor, with five hand-picked speakers representing each decade, to be revealed soon.

Launched in Brighton, UK, in 1969, at a time when the ocean industry was booming due to the newly-formed offshore oil and gas industry, Oi has since become recognised as the leading event series for diverse stakeholders from government, academic and research institutions to survey companies, technology developers and business leaders. In 1969, around 600 exhibitors and visitors attended from all over the world, including the Society for Underwater Technology (SUT), Oi's first ever sponsor and still a vital partner today, with its latest position as Technical Programme sponsor at OiA.

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At the turn of the 21st century, a move to larger premises – ExCeL London – gave the Oi franchise a substantially higher profile, larger exhibition space and an extensive dockside which has proved invaluable for exhibitors to demonstrate their latest developments. San Diego’s on-water facility is also proving popular with OiA exhibitors and delegates. The inception of Oi China in 2013 ushered in the energy of a thriving new marketplace, trading upon the country’s developing offshore energy and marine industries. A move from Shanghai to the ‘sailing city’ of Qingdao has since cemented Oi China’s pre-eminence, while the launch of OiA in 2017 engendered fresh stimulus while focusing on regional excellence, with an international outlook.

The Oi conference has always attracted the biggest names in ocean science and technology, keen to share knowledge on new developments in their specialist fields. While the challenges of the day have diversified in the half-century since the start of Oi, the conference has always focused on the application of new methodology and technology, with contemporary focus veering towards enabling safe and sustainable use of the ocean and protection of the marine environment. The three-day Technical Programme at OiA ‘19 features technical tracks focusing on Observation and Sensing, Hydrography, Geophysics and Geotechnics, Unmanned Vehicles, Vessels and Robotics, Marine Pollution and Environmental Stressors, Navigation and Positioning, and Ocean ICT.

“The sheer quality and diversity of the conference speakers and content have driven the growth and success of the Oi brand since 1969,” said Ralph Rayner, Oi conference chairman. *“Together as an industry we have addressed and progressed everything from major environmental challenges with global impact, through to niche technical topics that contribute to breakthroughs in specific verticals. For 50 years, Oi has set and played an active part in the ocean science and technology agenda, and we are looking forward to taking the next steps and addressing the key issues at OiA this February.”*

The Oi conference has evolved significantly since 1969, with new, focused events joining the Technical Tracks along the way. Catch the Next Wave (CTNW) was introduced in 2012, with a remit to discuss a longer-term view of the capabilities that are shaping our future ability to explore, understand, exploit and protect the oceans. Taking place on Tuesday 26th February in partnership with the Explorers Club, the OiA ‘19 edition of CTNW will investigate how technology enables exploration and how, in turn, exploration drives the development of new and novel technologies.

The exclusive Ocean Futures Forum, a new part of the Oi family launched in 2018, will make its US debut at OiA. Taking place on Monday 25th February, this one-day conference and networking event brings together senior strategists and heads of business to hear and discuss the emerging requirements for technology across key offshore industries, offering compelling insights into the role of ocean science and technology in enabling the development of a sustainable Blue Economy.

The free-to-attend exhibition has always been at the heart of Oi, acting as a high-tech meeting place for companies and organisations to highlight their latest developments to a professional audience. In 1969, the first Oceanology International hosted a total of 600 exhibitors and visitors, while Oi 2018 attracted 520 exhibitors from 33 countries, and nearly 8,000 attendees, to ExCeL London in March. At the San Diego Convention Centre in February, OiA ‘19 will host more than 200 exhibitors (up from 160 in 2017), from a variety of interrelated disciplines, ranging from subsea survey, maritime security and marine renewables to fisheries & aquaculture, digital technology and ocean mining.

To register for OiA ‘19, visit <http://www.oceanologyinternationalamericas.com/>

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About the Oceanology International Portfolio

The Oceanology International portfolio of events offer a global forum where industry, academia and government share knowledge and connect with the marine technology and ocean science community, improving their strategies for measuring, exploiting, protecting and operating in the world's oceans. First established in 1969, the flagship event in London features the world's largest exhibition for marine science and technology, multiple agenda-setting technical conferences, and a visiting vessels and waterside demonstration program.

The Oceanology International portfolio includes:

- **Oceanology International:** Oceanology International is the leading conference and exhibition dedicated to serving all professionals working in the global ocean science and marine technology sector. The first Oceanology International was held in Brighton, in 1969. Today, its home is at ExCeL London. The OI2016 exhibition was the largest ever in the show's 47-year history with over 8,500m² occupied by 520 exhibiting companies from 33 countries. The next edition of Oi takes place at ExCeL London, 17-19 March 2020 www.oceanologyinternational.com
- **Oceanology International Americas** (February 25-27 2019, San Diego Convention Center, USA): The successful launch event of the biennial series took place in 2017 where over 1,775 unique attendees including over 160 exhibiting companies participated. www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com
- **Oceanology International China:** Developed with government and industry associations, Oceanology International China provides organizations with the opportunity to capitalize on China's rapidly growing offshore energy and marine industries. A successful move for Oi China 2017 from Shanghai to Qingdao saw over 200 exhibitors and more than 6,600 domestic and overseas attendees from 21 different countries attending. Oi China 2018 (23-25 October) took place in Qingdao, the largest city in eastern Shandong Province on the east coast of China, the wealthiest city in Shandong Province. Qingdao is a demonstration area for marine ecology protection and a pilot city for marine technology and has key economic links with Ontario & British Columbia, Canada. The next Oi China takes place in Shanghai, 13-15 November, 2019 www.oichina.com.cn/en
- **Catch the Next Wave conference:** Now in its 6th edition, Catch the Next Wave is an exclusive conference taking place alongside or as part of the Oceanology International events globally. The event takes a longer-term view of the capabilities that will shape our future ability to explore, understand, exploit and protect the oceans. Catch the Next Wave 2019 is taking place alongside Oceanology International Americas 2019 on 26th February 2019 www.ctnwconference.com

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