

Topics and delegates finalised for Oi18's ExCel conference schedule

- Comprehensive selection of industry experts set to present diverse programme of technical tracks at Oceanology International 2018



Photo from Oceanology International 2016 conference

London, 8 January 2018 – The Technical Tracks conference programme for Oceanology International 2018 at ExCel, London (13th-15th March, 2018) has now been finalised, constituting the most extensive and cogent analysis of advances in ocean science and technology available under one roof.

“The sheer scope and magnitude of the sessions is impressive,” enthuses Conference Manager Ellen Burgess. *“Each conference will be chaired by leading authorities in their respective fields, and the potential for enlightened, galvanising discussion and the cross-fertilisation of progressive ideas is genuinely exciting.”*

The conference programme gets under way on Tuesday, 13th March 2018 with a **Hydrography, Geophysics & Geotechnics** track, chaired by Andy Hill, Marine Geohazard Technical Authority at BP Exploration, and Richard Salisbury, Senior Consultant at Fugro. This session will discuss data collation and examination methods used in mapping offshore seabed and sub-seabed environments, highlighting the benefits such studies confer upon the renewables, oil & gas, marine and coastal construction, telecommunications and seafloor mining industries.

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On the same day, the **Aquaculture** track traces the ongoing development of marine aquaculture facilities and the consequent ramifications for the offshore aquaculture industry, and will be chaired by Lawrie Stove, Managing Director at AquaMoor; David Kelly, CEO & CTO, InnovaSea; and Keith Jeffery, Aquaculture Development Officer, Cefas.

The **Ocean Observation & Sensing** track, meanwhile, looks at refinements in the monitoring of ocean physics, chemistry and biology that may enhance existing weather, ocean and climate models. The session will be chaired by Carl Gouldman, Director of U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®), NOAA; Matt Mowlem, Head of the Ocean Technology and Engineering Group at the NOC; and Justin Manley, Founder of Just Innovation.

The concluding Tuesday session will be part one of the **Unmanned Vehicles & Vessels** track, chaired by Steve Hall, CEO of SUT; Dan Hook, Managing Director of ASV Global; and Prof Russell Wynn, Chief Scientist of NOC's Marine Autonomous and Robotic Systems. This will examine the potential dividends arising from the current and projected deployment of marine autonomous systems including ASVs, ROVs and AUVs.

The first track scheduled for Wednesday, 14th March 2018 is **Delivering Efficiencies Across the Offshore Oil & Gas Life Cycle**, chaired by Christopher Curran, Senior Consultant at CJC Enterprises, and Steve Barrett, Senior Vice President, Business

Development at Oceaneering. This timely new track will report upon cost-reduction measures which have been successfully implemented across all sectors of offshore developments

Another new track scheduled for Wednesday is **Ocean Information & Communications Technology**, chaired by Nick Lambert, Maritime Domain Expert at the Satellite Applications Catapult; Dr Clare Postlethwaite, Coordinator of the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN); and Dr Helen Wells, Business Group Leader of Meteorology and Science at the Met Office. This session will be concerned with the inherent promise and expanding purview of open source data acquisition and connectivity.

Also new is the **Underwater Imaging & Metrology** track, chaired by Simon Waterfield, Head of Survey Support Group at Sonardyne, and Blair Cunningham, President of Technology & Divisional CEO of Coda Octopus Products. This technological showcase will demonstrate the economic and operational benefits of real-time imaging.

The Wednesday programme is rounded off by part two of the **Unmanned Vehicles & Vessels** track.

Finally, two tracks are scheduled for Thursday, 15th March 2018. **Marine Renewables**, chaired by Dr Zoe Roberts, Senior Metocean Analyst at Vattenfall Wind Power (UK), and Dr Stephen Wyatt, Research & Disruptive Innovation Director at the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, will confront the myriad technological and practical issues surrounding the development, installation and maintenance of the offshore renewable infrastructure.

Meanwhile, **Navigation & Positioning**, chaired by Xavier Montazel, Vice President, Director of Navigation Systems Business Unit at iXblue, and Walter Jardine, Upstream Survey & Positioning Authority, BP, will report upon the newest findings in this realm.

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Rear Admiral Shepard Smith, Director, Office of Coast Survey, NOAA observes: *“I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak alongside such an influential group of speakers, and with the breadth of audience at Oceanology. The global focus of this conference inspires me to develop deeper international ties to better understand our global ocean.”*

Prospective Oceanology International 2018 attendees are urged to register now via www.oceanologyinternational.com. Conference Manager Ellen Burgess can be contacted on +44 (0)20 8439 5420 and ellen.burgess@reedexpo.co.uk, for more information regarding the technical tracks.

Oceanology International 2018 is also home to **Catch the Next Wave (CTNW)**, a prestigious annual conference that takes a longer term view of the capabilities that are shaping our future ability to explore, understand, exploit and protect the oceans. CTNW takes place at ExCeL London, from 09:30-17:00 on the 15th of March and requires separate registration: <http://www.ctnwconference.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 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. With 215 exhibitors from 20 different countries, more than 5000 domestic and overseas professional attendees from 32 different countries and regions were attracted to OI China 2015. OI China 2017 (1-3 November) is excited to announce a move to Qingdao. Qingdao is the largest city in eastern Shandong Province on the east coast of China, the wealthiest city in Shandong Province, a demonstration area for marine ecology protection and a pilot city for marine technology and has key economic links with Ontario & British Columbia, Canada. www.oichina.com.cn/en
- **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 1970. Today, its home is at ExCeL London. The OI2016 exhibition was

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the largest ever in the show's 47-year history with over 8,500m² occupied by 520 exhibiting companies from 33 countries. www.oceanologyinternational.com

- **Catch the Next Wave conference:** Now in its fifth edition, Catch the Next Wave is an exclusive conference taking place alongside or as part of the Oceanology International events globally. The most recent program in London took place at the prestigious Royal Institution, and the North American edition will form part of the OIA conference program on February 27th 2019. 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 2018 is taking place alongside Oceanology International 2018. This one day programme (Thursday 15 March) will explore the future of disruptive exploratory technology and consider opportunities for technology transfer from outside the marine industry and is run in association with The Explorers Club. www.ctnwconference.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. www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com

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