



Oi18 recorded high visitor numbers, reflecting buoyancy in the ocean industry

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Oceanology International 2018: Ocean Industry Sets Course for the Future at Oceanology International 2018

London, 23 March 2018 – Taking place at ExCeL London last week, Oceanology International 2018 brought together thousands of professionals from the marine technology and ocean industry attracting 7,400 unique attendees, representing 90 countries, with many revisiting through the week for a total attendance of 13,789.

“The buzz around ExCeL and the feedback we have received shows that Oi18 was

overwhelmingly positive for both exhibitors and visitors,” said David Ince, Oceanology International Event Manager, Reed Exhibitions. “We have recorded very high visitor numbers, reflecting the continuing buoyancy the ocean community enjoys. Lots of new technology was unveiled and lots of business was done, while the conference tracks, Ocean Futures Forum and Catch the Next Wave remained incredibly popular due to a packed schedule of educational, insightful and unique papers presented by a literal who’s who of experts in the ocean industry.”

For three days, visitors, delegates and exhibitors congregated for the most diverse exhibition and conference covering marine science & research, commercial ocean-based operations and technology, making Oi18 a vital platform for the continued development of the world’s oceans as a sustainable resource for industrial, social and economic transformation. And while the packed conference schedule delivered a unique and in-depth state-of-play with keen future insight across diverse ocean verticals, the exhibition floor reflected a spirit of pure innovation, technological development and commercial opportunity.

*“Oceanology International 2018 has been brilliant, lots of visitors, plenty of new faces as well as old friends,” said Stephen Hall Chief Executive of Oi18 partner organisation, the **Society for Underwater Technology**. “SUT played a full part hosting side events, chairing workshops and encouraging students and early career professionals to pursue their dreams in this innovative, rapidly progressing ocean science and technology community. We’re looking forward to working with Reed Exhibitions to help develop the Oi family of events in China & America and grow our underwater technology family.”*

New technologies and services were high on the exhibitor agenda at Oi18, with a notable rise in new marine robotics solutions, aka, Unmanned or Autonomous Vehicles (USV/ASVs). San Diego’s **Ocean Aero** revealed its Submaran, a hybrid wind and solar-powered surface and subsurface vessel, designed for extended ocean observation and data collection. The UK’s **AutoNaut** unveiled the latest generation of its 5m-long, wave foil technology AutoNaut USV, which can travel at 1-3knots and keep station within a 25m-radius. **Forum Energy Technologies** launched its new XLe Spirit, an electrically operated ROV, designed and manufactured in-house at Kirkbymoorside, in Yorkshire. It is the first of a new generation of electric ROVs from Forum.

Meanwhile France's **iXblue** showed off its new DriX unmanned surface vessel in the dockside demonstration area and inside on its booth. *"This edition of Oi was truly successful for iXblue. I am confident that this will lead to fruitful business relationships in the near future. We've been taking part in Oi for over 15 years now and we've always been pleased with the quality of the exhibition and its attendance. Oi is the place where we can best showcase our latest technological advances to all major players of the industry that gather in London for three days. This was without a doubt the perfect place for us to launch Canopus, our new global subsea positioning solution. Having the opportunity to showcase DriX, our new USV, by doing live demonstrations on the Thames was also fantastic. It was a big hit with all of the attendees,"* said Fabien Napolitano, iXblue CEO.

On the show floor, **Kongsberg Maritime's** stand focused on the Digital Ocean, a concept that integrates the journey of data from collection through distribution to analysis. Outside on the dock the Norwegian maritime technology specialist was working with **Hushcraft** and the **GEBCO-NF Alumini** team to show-off the USV Maxlimer, a unique Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) / Autonomous Underwater Vessel (AUV) concept. Built for the \$7 Million Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition, GEBCO-NF Alumini team's USV Maxlimer joins eight other finalists, all of which were announced and detailed during the Catch the Next Wave conference, which took place on Thursday 15th March at Oi18.

XPRIZE was represented at Oi18 by Senior Director Dr. Jyotika Virmani, Ph.D., who joined the panel discussion on the technology, science and sustainable operations required to support the Ocean Economy in 2030, during the Ocean Futures Forum on Oi18's opening day. Dr. Virmani also gave the Catch the Next Wave closing keynote, where the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE finalists and Milestone Prize winners were unveiled. *"Oceanology international is a global show, which brings together technology from all maritime areas, so you really get to see the cutting-edge of technology. But then you also have engaging and thoughtful conversations on the economics and the governance of the business model around moving those technologies forward, which adds another robust dimension to this conference."* said Dr. Virmani.

While marine robotics undoubtedly 'stole the show' at least in terms of visual impact, Oi18 featured literally thousands of innovative new products, technology solutions and services. **OceanWise** launched its Port-Log Connect environmental monitoring service for ports and harbours. **Valeport** launched a suite of sensors and software updates and UK-based **Hemisphere GNSS**

launched new smart antennas, the multi-GNSS Vector V122 and V133. **2G Robotics** launched a new LED strobe panel, called NOVA, which combines 36 LEDs to produce a 450,000 Lumen output. **International Geomatics** announced a project with **GreySellsGlobal** to offer a digital mapping portal, called marineGRIDD.

A number of companies launched joint initiatives at Oi18. **Forum** and **BlueHaptics** announced a joint agreement enabling technologies from both companies to be combined to provide solutions for ROV and subsea engineering applications. A new, US-based ocean technology industry association, also chose Oi18 for its launch. The **International Ocean Science and Technology Industry Association (IOSTIA)** will be based in Washington to provide a unified voice for the industry in the US.

The next Oceanology International London takes place in two years' time, 17-19 March 2020. The next must-attend events on the calendar though, will be Oi China 2018, taking place 23-25 October 2018 in Qingdao, www.oichina.com.cn/en, and Oi Americas 2019, taking place 25-27 February 2019 in San Diego, www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.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. 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) will also take 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. www.oichina.com.cn/en

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- **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 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 formed part of the OiA conference program on February 16th 2017. 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 where over 1,775 unique attendees including over 160 exhibiting companies participated. www.oceanologyinternationalnorthamerica.com

About Reed Exhibitions

Reed Exhibitions is the world's leading events organizer, with over 500 events in 30 countries. In 2015, Reed brought together over seven million

event participants from around the world generating billions of dollars in business. Today, Reed events are held throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa and organized by 40 fully staffed offices. Reed Exhibitions serves 43 industry sectors with trade and consumer events. It is part of the RELX Group plc, a world-leading provider of information solutions for professional customers across industries.www.reedexpo.com