



UK Hydrographic
Office

Press Release

16 September 2020

ADMIRALTY Marine Innovation Programme to support the development of the Blue Economy

The UK Hydrographic Office has launched a new innovation programme to help start-ups and innovators develop new solutions that support safe, secure and thriving oceans

The UK Hydrographic Office has launched its new ADMIRALTY Marine Innovation Programme, the organisation announced today. Spearheaded by the UKHO's Research, Design and Innovation team and [RE SET](#), the programme will give innovators and start-ups a chance to develop new solutions that solve some of the world's most pressing challenges when it comes to our oceans.

The launch of this programme follows extensive research commissioned by the UK Hydrographic Office into the Blue Economy, which is estimated to be worth £3.2 trillion by the year 2030. Marine geospatial data will play an essential role in supporting this growth by enabling the identification of new areas for tidal and wind energy generation, supporting safe navigation for larger autonomous ships, playing a vital role in mitigating the effects of climate change and more.

Successful innovation programme participants will develop their own solutions for these areas, using ADMIRALTY data sets that range from seabed composition samples and bathymetric profiles of the seafloor, to tidal and navigational information. Entrants to some challenges will also work alongside leading experts in research, design and development at the UKHO, with winners receiving an opportunity to launch their products into some of the world's fastest growing marine sectors.

From today, the UKHO are looking for applicants for its first innovation challenge:

Unlocking Autonomous Navigation – identify, trial and prove how navigational data can be used to support the safe navigation of Marine Autonomous Surface Ships. Each selected participant will have access to ADMIRALTY data and expertise, with winners receiving prizes worth £175,000 and an opportunity to launch their product in a sector estimated to be worth £111bn by 2030.

Find out more here: <https://www.admiralty.co.uk/innovation-programme/autonomous-navigation-challenge>

Applications for this challenge will close on October the 7th.

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Find out more about our market-leading
ADMIRALTY Maritime Data Solutions:

[admiralty.co.uk](https://www.admiralty.co.uk)    



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Subsequent challenges will invite innovators to develop solutions for areas including maritime insurance, tidal and wave energy generation, blue carbon sequestration and sea-level rise modelling. Dates for these challenges will be confirmed throughout 2020 and 2021.

Commenting on the launch of the ADMIRALTY Marine Innovation Programme, Mark Casey, Head of Research, Design and Innovation at the UK Hydrographic Office said:

“The launch of our Marine Innovation Programme is an exciting milestone in our journey to help many marine sectors solve some of the core issues that we face.”

“We believe that our challenges will support innovation across the Blue Economy and encourage digital leaders to use marine geospatial data in new and varied ways. We would encourage anyone with the skills or a big idea in these areas to get in touch, get involved, and help unlock the power of marine geospatial data”

Details regarding the ‘Unlocking Autonomous Navigation’ challenge can be found here:
<https://www.admiralty.co.uk/innovation-programme/autonomous-navigation-challenge>

Details regarding the whole Marine Innovation Programme can be found on the ADMIRALTY website:
<https://www.admiralty.co.uk/innovation-programme>

Prospective participants can contact the organising teams by sending an email to:
UKHO_Innovation_Programme_Event1@ukho.gov.uk

The launch of the ADMIRALTY Marine Innovation Programme follows extensive research commissioned by the UK Hydrographic Office into the Blue Economy. Our global Blue Economy, referring to all ocean-related activities, is experiencing a series of transformations under the combined influence of rising populations, increasing incomes, scarcer natural resources, a changing climate and rapidly evolving technologies.

A ‘new’ Blue Economy is developing as established economic sectors are being disrupted and new economic sectors emerge, paving the way to a smart, sustainable and resilient use of ocean ecosystems.

This includes the autonomous shipping sector which is estimated to be worth £111 billion and employ 554,000 people by 2030.

You can find out more about the UKHO’s research into this sector [here](#).

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Notes to Editors

About the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)

The UK Hydrographic Office is a leading centre for hydrography, providing marine geospatial data to inform maritime decisions. We work with a wide range of data suppliers and partners to support maritime navigation, safety, security and marine development around the UK and worldwide.

We make location-based information available through ADMIRALTY Maritime Data Solutions, our world-leading range of charts, publications and custom data sets. Our use of marine data and technology, combined with our expertise, ensures we continue to innovate and provide a wider range of solutions.

We source, process and provide access to location-based information, ranging from seabed to surface. This enables our partner organisations to make critical maritime decisions – informing the sustainable use and management of the marine environment and supporting the development of the blue economy.

About RE_SET

RE_SET is the boutique strategy consultancy for disruption, innovation and sustainability. We help our clients to embrace, embed and catalyse innovation within their organisations, in order to create lasting positive change. We ensure our clients thrive in a disruptive world.

RE_SET is powered by the global innovation platform SPRINGWISE. Over the past 24 months, RE_SET and SPRINGWISE have been supporting the UKHO with its wider MGIA initiatives, working across 20 varied sectors of the Blue Economy. We are proud to be supporting the UKHO with its newly launched ADMIRALTY Marine Innovation Programme and are excited to see its results.

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