



Ocean Exchange Awards \$320,000 in Prizes to Blue Economy Startups



Fort Lauderdale, FL November 4, 2024 - The Ocean Exchange, a leader in supporting the acceleration of innovative solutions for healthy oceans and the sustainable blue economy announces the winners of two Neptune awards for \$100,000 each and one Wallenius Wilhelmsen Orcelle award for \$100,000 plus two \$10,000 Collegiate Awards.

“Now in our 13th year, this award competition continues to attract deserving startups from around the globe. This year, finalists came from 7 countries and represented solutions for critical worldwide issues. We are so fortunate to have the support of [sponsors](#) who support our mission of accelerating the adoption of innovative solutions for healthy oceans and the sustainable blue economy.” said Millicent Pitts, Chief Executive Officer of Ocean Exchange.



Winners of the 2024 Ocean Exchange Awards (Left to Right): Neptune Awards: Oyster Heaven, George Birch, and Phoenix Waste Solutions, Yuen-Li Chan and WW Orcelle Winner: CarbonBridge, Manu Pillai

The winners were selected from an international list of 15 finalists at the Ocean Exchange event held October 27-29 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The 2024 award recipients are:

- Neptune Award: **Ocean Heaven**, represented by George Birch, Founder. Ocean Heaven is a marine conservation organization regenerating financially sustainable oyster reefs at scale.
- Neptune Award: **Phoenix Waste Solutions**, represented by Yuen-Li Chan, Co-Founder. They have developed a patented waste disposal machine that thermally degrades waste into ash working at a molecular level to suppress pollution and does not require any external fuel source.
- Wallenius Wilhelmsen Orcelle® Award: **CarbonBridge** represented by Manu Pillai, CEO. CarbonBridge uses CO₂ and methane with energy efficient microbial conversion techniques to produce ultra-low carbon renewable methanol.

In addition, the event marked the 9th anniversary of the Ocean Exchange Collegiate awards. Eight finalists competed for the Guy Harvey Foundation Collegiate Award for \$10,000 and the Ocean Exchange Collegiate Award for \$10,000.

“Each year, it is so impressive to see how these bright minds come together with solutions to environmental challenges,” said Guy Harvey Foundation CEO Jessica Harvey. “It is critical that we continue to encourage and support the next generation of leaders.”

The 2024 recipients of the two Collegiate Awards are:

PhyCo Technologies, represented by Ranah Chavoshi from Simon Fraser University and Ceretune LLC, represented by Reid Barnett, from North Carolina State University.

PhyCo™ is a marine biotechnology company focused on seaweed aquaculture and manufacturing compostable plastics.

Ceretune LLC specializes in installing fibrous aquatic bioscaffolds for water pollution removal.



Winners of the 2024 Collegiate Awards (Left to Right): Ranah Chavoshi from PhyCo and Reid Barnett from Ceretune LLC.

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 largely 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](https://oceanexchange.org).

Media Contact:

Susan Zellers, Ocean Exchange Program Director

+1-267-844-2269

susan.zellers@oceanexchange.org