



## **Ocean Exchange Names the Finalists for the 2023 Neptune, Orcelle® and Innovation for Transportation/Logistics Hubs Awards**

***Three \$100,000 prizes to be conferred at upcoming Ocean Exchange event***

**Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, October 5, 2023** – With its 2023 event set for October 22-24, Ocean Exchange has named the finalists for the Neptune, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Orcelle®, and Ocean Exchange Innovation Award for Transportation/Logistics Hubs (Port award), which will be conferred on October 24. The winner of each award will receive prize money of \$100,000 US. Based in Fort Lauderdale, Ocean Exchange is a leader in supporting the acceleration of innovative solutions for healthy oceans and the sustainable Blue Economy.

Twelve candidates for each track have been chosen to present their solutions at the Ocean Exchange event. In all, 22 companies have been designated as finalists, with two companies selected as candidates for both the Neptune and Orcelle or Port awards. Twelve are from the USA, 2 each from Germany, Switzerland and Spain, 1 each from the United Kingdom, Israel, Netherlands, Canada, Italy and Jamaica. Solutions fall into the following categories: weather forecasting, vessel efficiency, vessel safety, aquaculture & agriculture, coastal & reef infrastructure, CO2 capture & decarbonization, AI, ML & robotics, shipping & transportation, and alternatives to fossil fuel.

The winner for each of the three awards will be chosen—based on the impact, level of innovation, and the ability to execute the presented solution—by delegates representing business, academia, government, and nonprofits.

- The **Neptune Award 2023** will be given to the solution that advances our understanding of the ocean and helps minimize our impact on these resources, even while using them for human benefit, resulting in more resilient bodies of water including healthy marine life and coastlines.
- Wallenius Wilhelmsen's **2023 Orcelle Award** will go to the solution that holds the greatest potential to close the gap to their zero emissions ambition for either land or ocean operations.
- The **2023 Innovation Award for Transportation Hubs Award** will be given to the solution that makes ocean-, inland-, and air- ports and other logistics hubs more sustainable with technologies that support clean water and air, conservation of precious

natural resources near ports/hubs, efficient road/rail/warehousing supporting the ports, and state-of-the-art sustainable port-hub land management.

“This year represents a significant milestone for Ocean Exchange. Not only are we celebrating our 12<sup>th</sup> awards program, but we also continue to grow the number of applications for our awards from countries around the world. I firmly believe that it is due to the recognition that our oceans and the corresponding Blue Economy are among the world’s most important resources and can benefit from innovative solutions that inspire action,” said Millicent Pitts, Chief Executive Officer of Ocean Exchange.

This year, Reservoir LLCs founding partner Dain Dunston will return to serve as host moderator to engage the audience with the finalist presentations. Reservoir provides deep resources for leadership and serves a trusted and experienced guide in unfamiliar waters.

The Ocean Exchange Awards Program is made possible by the support of sponsors, partners and leading industry experts from around the globe. “An initiative such as this, which promotes the acceleration of technologies designed to help solve critical global issues, could not exist without their support and dedication and the participation of gifted entrepreneurs from all corners of the world,” noted Pitts.

Full lists of the finalists, along with more information about the solutions to be presented, are available at [Orcelle and Ports \(Transportation Hub\) Awards](#) and [Neptune Award](#). For more information about the event and Ocean Exchange’s mission, visit the [Ocean Exchange website](#).

### ***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](#).

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