

“Forum for Dialogue with Industry”

How can Industry, Science, and Government TOGETHER advance Ocean Observing for 2030?

GOOS, MTS, NOAA, and industry partners have identified a huge need to improve and expand communication if we are to collectively face societal challenges and the demand for an increased, resilient, and responsive global ocean observing, forecasting and information delivery system.

The challenge

To date, the ocean observing enterprise has been a largely research focused effort driven by government investments, which has created a highly fragmented value chain.

Increasing societal demands for ocean data for climate adaptation and mitigation, to sustainably manage ocean resources, and improve the forecast of extreme events to reduce loss or life and property, requires a more rapid expansion of the ocean observing enterprise. However, the immaturity of the market significantly inhibits the speed and efficiency of system development.

As demand increases, new commercial ocean observing services are finding opportunities to exploit, yet it remains unclear as to how these will interact with the established global and national observing operations, as coordinated under the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and national systems. The observing system will need new technology and yet there remains no established way to fast track promising technology candidates into mainstream and mature systems.

In order to meet the ‘big ask’ of society for ocean information in this crucial next decade, we need an active and vibrant dialogue between industry, academia and government about how to achieve a more efficient, dynamic and fit-for-purpose ocean observing system, and to maximize the strengths of all sectors. Working together will solve problems ...faster.

What can we do?

GOOS, MTS, NOAA, and industry partners propose to create a forum for compact and meaningful dialogue with new and established companies, academia, and government to dismantle barriers and highlight opportunities towards achieving a mature a vibrant Ocean Observing Enterprise, through a successful and thriving mix of the public and private technologies and players.

Although there is recognition across the ocean observing enterprise of the important role of industry, previous ‘industry’ conference sessions have been single events, mostly disconnected, not focused on developing globally actionable outcomes, and not well attended by industry.

The forum activities will be co-designed with industry partners and will result in recommendations that both MTS and GOOS have the ability and interest to act upon. Together we will identify the barriers and the opportunities.

What will the forum do?

MTS, GOOS, NOAA and industry partners suggest co-developing a compact series of industry dialogues under the forum:

- Working with industry contacts ahead of the dialogs to attract cross sector leadership
- Issuing key issue briefs ahead of each dialogue so that substantive discussion can occur
- Writing an authoritative thought piece on ‘how Industry, Science, and Government can together advance Ocean Observing for 2030’
- Publicizing forum recommendations, through the Ocean Decade, GOOS, and MTS, to a broad community of program managers, funders, policy makers
- Establishing a process to track and implement the outcomes from the discussions within MTS, GOOS and industry partners

Four key topics to maturing the ocean observing market:

- Instrument Provision: Supply and development of sensors and platforms
- Multi-Sectoral Ocean Architecture: Integrating new observing networks and business models
- User Driven Ocean Information Services: Core and Downstream services
- Looking ahead: New technology for the Ocean Decade

Benefits:

Through the forum for industry dialogue, we will:

- Lower barriers and identify opportunities
- Define principals for engagement around issues such as open data
- Mature the market, enabling more rapid market growth, speed of new technology implementation, lowering the cost of ocean information service delivery
- Develop mechanisms for information sharing across government, science and industry
- Highlight opportunities to act together for mutual benefit

UN Ocean Decade Action