



## The Dispatch – Quarterly Newsletter from BLUE

On World Oceans Day: A Reflection on Anchoring the Future of Hard-Tech Blue Innovation in Maine

**Announcing our landmark University of Maine MOU, DOE Connector status, and the opening of our Blue Vector and Blue Meridian vetting portals.**

Dear Partners, Founders, and Advisors,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Dispatch*—a recurring update on the infrastructure, alliances, and capital networks shaping the future of hard-tech marine innovation.

It has been quite some time since our last ecosystem update. We have been intentionally quiet and deep in "build-mode" over the last many months, working behind the scenes to assemble the physical and institutional assets required to scale true multi-domain hardware.

On this World Oceans Day, as the global community reflects on the scale and potential of our marine systems, Blue Innovation Labs is thrilled to officially break that silence. For nearly a decade, our mission has been to accelerate the commercialization of advanced marine and environmental technologies. As a proud member of the **World Economic Forum's 1000 Ocean Startups** consortium, our lens has always been global. Today, we are sharing a series of landmark milestones that firmly establish our footprint at the core of the North Atlantic Blue Economy and anchor our global network directly to Maine's premier physical, academic, and industrial assets.

### **A Landmark Alliance: The University of Maine MOU**

We are incredibly proud to formally announce that **Blue Innovation Labs, alongside the Blue Institute, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Maine.**

This public-private alliance bridges our global startup pipeline and institutional relationships with UMaine's world-class R&D infrastructure—specifically leveraging their advanced materials, composites, and engineering testing facilities. By uniting the physical hardware of our founders with UMaine's unrivaled testing baselines, access to leading R1 top-tier researchers and faculty, collaborative deployments across their specialized waterfront marine labs and a unique, island-strewn tidal coastline spanning thousands of miles of diverse macro-tidal environments, deep littoral coves, and rugged high-latitude test beds, we are creating a complete lab-to-sea commercialization runway right here in Maine.

## Powering the Network: Maine's First DOE Connector at TechPlace

As we anchor our headquarters and partner with **TechPlace at Brunswick Landing**—Maine's premier state-aligned dual-use technology hub born out of the historic naval base realignment—Blue Innovation Labs is honored to share that we are the first program in the state of Maine to be designated as an official **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Connector**.

This designation plugs our ecosystem directly into the national energy innovation framework, granting our startups and partners streamlined access to federal energy programs, validation resources, and non-dilutive funding pathways. It validates our role as a critical geographic hub for dual-use and clean maritime energy hardware, utilizing TechPlace's ready-made industrial manufacturing infrastructure as our physical residency landing pad.

## Designing the Multi-Domain Runway: Hardware, Health, and Capital

True technological innovation cannot be rushed, and it cannot be validated on a desktop simulation. As the saying goes in our sector: *“You cannot develop deep-tech maritime hardware on a desktop model on the sixth floor of a Kendall Square high-rise.”* Developing autonomous systems, advanced manufacturing components, and scalable ecological solutions requires time, space, and a serious physical commitment to steel and salt.

While our primary domain expertise remains deeply anchored in maritime-first and water-based environments, the Blue Incubator represents a true **Air-Sea-Space multi-domain pipeline**. Modern marine technologies are deeply intertwined with aerial drone deployment, rugged cold-water operations, and space-based telemetry—and our infrastructure is uniquely built to support the hardware that spans them all.

To accelerate these cross-domain breakthroughs, we are incredibly excited to build active collaborations with the rapidly growing aerospace technology clusters emerging at both Brunswick Landing and the former Loring Air Force Base. By exposing our cohort to Maine's unique intersection of coastal testing baselines, industrial aviation infrastructure, and cutting-edge space and satellite telemetry innovations, we are establishing a truly unmatched, statewide testing corridor for complex, multi-domain hardware.

Crucially, our industrial pipeline targets three urgent, intersecting mandates:

- **Ocean & Water Health:** Scalable technologies focused on climate resilience, coastal ecosystem restoration, and critical water health remediation—including the development of hardware and sensors to track and mitigate threats like PFAS and microplastics in our vital water systems.
- **Dual-Use Defense & Security:** Advanced manufacturing, autonomous navigation, and subsea infrastructure protection optimized for rugged, cold-water, and extreme environmental deployments.

- **The Dual Capital Stack:** Deep-water validation requires deep-water capital. We don't just help founders develop technology; we help them fund and scale it. Our multi-year runway provides hands-on support capturing **non-dilutive funding** (including federal SBIR/STTR grants, agency OTAs, and state technology funds) paired with direct, structured introductions to **dilutive capital networks**—ranging from strategic angel syndicates to institutional venture capital partners—as well as direct pathways to major maritime and defense industry primes for strategic partnerships, pilot deployments, and potential acquisition.

Our comprehensive, multi-year program design is structured around both littoral (shallow-water/coastal) and deep-water validation, advanced manufacturing integration, corporate partnerships, and direct mentoring from a premier cohort of senior strategic advisors. We provide the physical, hard-tech operational expertise required to manufacture, validate, and deploy assets directly into the rugged environments they are built to operate in.

### **Portal Opening: Applications for Blue Vector & Blue Meridian**

Today, we are officially opening our application portal for the next evolution of our industrial pipeline, focusing on two distinct hybrid strands based out of Maine:

- **Blue Vector:** Tailored for hard-tech startups moving through critical mid-stage validation (**TRL 4–6**).
- **Blue Meridian:** Tailored for advanced startups scaling through operational testing, manufacturing, and procurement deployment (**TRL 7–9**).

**Important Note for Founders:** Because our commitment to hardware validation requires intense, individualized infrastructure access, deep strategic vetting, and dedicated capital alignment, spaces for these multi-year residency tracks will be highly selective.

If your startup is ready to move past the prototype phase, leverage world-class materials testing, and validate physical hardware in a 24-to-36 month framework built for challenging, high-latitude marine and atmospheric environments—while unlocking the commercialization support, industrial partnerships, and strategic funding networks required to scale and manufacture your systems directly in Maine—we invite you to enter our pipeline early.

 **Submit Application Pre-Registration [Here](#)**

Thank you to our partners, our brilliant alumni, and our growing network of advisors who have made this journey possible. The future of the blue economy isn't just digital—it is forged in steel and salt, it protects our water health and oceans, and its home is in Maine.

Fair winds,

**Judith Underwood**

CEO & Co-Founder, Blue Innovation Labs *Headquartered at TechPlace, Brunswick Landing, Maine*