



Global Incubator Programme Ocean Scaleup Accelerator Canada - Halifax, Nova Scotia

Innovate UK's Global Incubator Programme, is an acceleration programme for innovative businesses to work with a world-leading incubator in Canada building long-term relationships and foundations to accelerate future market growth.

We are currently accepting applications for up to 8 innovative companies in the ocean sector to join our tailored 6-month incubation programme delivered in partnership with [COVE](#), a global innovation centre for the ocean technology sector located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The programme includes participation at Canada's premier event for the ocean technology sector, the [H2O Conference](#), including the opportunity for companies to demonstrate their technology offering to industry experts and prospective customers at COVE Demo Day.

FOCUS AREAS: This programme is particularly relevant for businesses in the areas of:

- Aquaculture
- Fisheries
- Marine Energy
- Marine Environmental Monitoring
- Marine Net Zero
- Marine Observations
- Marine Robotics
- Marine Transportation
- Ocean Plastics

KEY TECHNOLOGIES with marine applications including, but not limited to:

- Alternative Energy
- Aquaculture Systems
- Autonomous Vessels
- Fishery Processes and Management
- Ocean Sensors
- Robotics and Drones
- Vessel Design and Manufacture

WHY CANADA?

Canada has become a world leader in engineering products and services suited to extreme harsh ocean environments, marine remote sensing technologies, and ocean observing systems.

Atlantic Canada contributes more than half of Canada's \$36bn ocean economy and is home to a strong cluster of ocean industries and to ground breaking ocean research. This region is quickly becoming a globally recognised hub of oceans expertise with the potential to be a significant contributor to a number of Global Value Chains associated with the oceans sector.

WHY COVE?

[COVE](#) brings together people, ideas, industry, and research to enable their community to work in new ways. It fosters the development of an engaged workforce for ocean industries to meet todays and future needs and takes advantage of both on and offshore shared infrastructure to enable new ocean products and services. COVE is a catalyst in creating the world's next practical, commercial, and revolutionary ocean technology advances.

KEY DATES:



WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **Access and introductions:** Connections to customers and partners across Canada and North America. Assistance with finding and recruiting skilled workers from Canada.
- **Scaling in Canada and Securing Opportunities:** Mentoring and expert sessions focused on; go-to-market strategy, human resource management guidance, customer acquisition, local partnerships, sales and market intelligence.
- **Goal setting:** Masterclasses, interactive workshops, on-line resources, and one-on-one coaching.
- **Legal information:** Session(s) on process maps, business registration, and IP treatment in Canada.
- **Innovation community:** Participate in COVE's vibrant community of ocean entrepreneurs and industry professionals and have access to onshore and offshore technical infrastructure such as [COVE's Stella Maris](#).
- **Advisory support:** Guidance from sector experts, mentors, and experienced entrepreneurs in Canada. Support from an Innovate UK Innovation and Growth Specialist to help you exploit the opportunities.
- **Market visits:** Two funded market visits to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada are planned as part of this programme. First market visit: 2nd – 8th February 2025. Second market visit: 4th – 13th June 2025 including participation at the [H20 Conference](#) and a demonstration at the COVE Demo Day.

TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME, YOU MUST:

Be a UK based company

Be a business with fewer than 250 employees

Have a focus on the ocean sector

WHAT IS THE COST?

Innovate UK will fund and organise flights, accommodation, in-market transfers for successful applicants for two group market visits. One representative from each company will be funded per visit. On acceptance to the programme a commitment fee of £2000 will be obtained from each company, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities and agreed action plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all the commitment fee.

APPLICANT BRIEFING – Recording available

To learn more about the programme, watch the Virtual applicant briefing [HERE](#)

HOW TO APPLY:

The Global Incubator Programme has a competitive application process where only the best applications will be successful following an evaluation process. Those shortlisted will be interviewed by a panel and finalists will undergo financial eligibility checks. All applications must be made online [HERE](#) and received by midnight on Sunday 10 November 2024. A separate company pitch-deck should be uploaded with your application form.

Please note: Successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to Canada.

Innovate UK is committed to improving the diversity of who we support. As such we welcome applications from those under-represented in the ocean sector.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact: enquiries8@innovateukedge.ukri.org