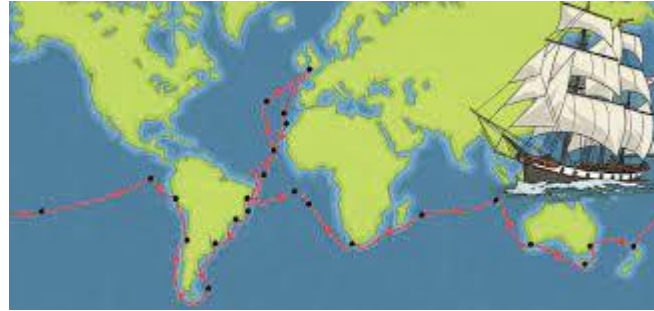


Ocean Futures Overview

Rob Watson, MBTC Director



Plymouth – The UK's Marine Innovation Hub



- University of Plymouth
 - Founded in 1862 as the Plymouth School of Navigation
 - No.1 University globally for marine research
- Marine Biological Association (MBA)
 - Founded in 1884
 - First data samples from Western Channel gathered in 1889
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)
 - Founded in 1988
 - Operates Western Channel Observatory
 - Continuous data sets from 1903
- World's largest concentration of marine scientists
- “The best understood body of water globally”

Innovation Support

- Smart Sound Plymouth
 - Industry access to scientific platforms for technology developments
- Marine Business Technology Centre (MBTC)
 - ERDF backed innovation service established in 2018
 - Smart Sound augmentation with new capital equipment
 - Over 300 businesses supported
 - Assured autonomy, clean propulsion & digital comms established as globally leading areas of development
- Smart Sound Connect
 - World's first ocean-focussed 5G testbed in partnership with Nokia & Vodafone
 - Augmented by offshore data mesh network
 - Official launch – 3rd March 2022

Ocean Futures Programme Overview

- “Triple helix” collaborative partnership to support marine innovation in the South West of England
- Strategic focus on **Marine Autonomy, Net Zero & Digital Ocean**
- Underpins the Plymouth & South West Freeport
- Supports and develops specific innovation projects
 - Ocean Futures Innovation Service (OFIS)
 - Plymouth ROADS programme
 - Maritime Assured Autonomy Testbed (MAAT)
 - Smart Sound Connect Extension
 - SW Connected Coast
 - University of Plymouth Smart Port Lab
 - University of Exeter Marine Clean Mobility Hubs
 - English Aquaculture Innovation Hub





Plymouth & SW Freeport

- One of 8 UK Freeports announced in 2021
 - Tariff free import of goods
 - Regulatory relaxation for testing of technology
 - Business rate relief
- Innovation as a foundation
 - Collaboration with UK businesses
 - Innovation & Prototyping Centres
- Focus on **Advanced Marine, Defence & Space**
 - Direct waterfront access
 - Cross sector collaborative opportunities
 - Collaboration across all UK freeports