



# **Nova Scotia's Oceans Technology Sector**

## **Moving Forward**



## Oceans Technology continues to hold great promise for Nova Scotia.

This growing and diverse sector has over 200 oceans technology companies and hundreds of people with PhDs in oceans-related disciplines. Many of these Nova Scotian companies manufacture or supply high-tech products and provide sophisticated services to oceans sectors around the world.

“Nova Scotia is a leader in oceans technology, and we are playing to our strengths,” said Premier Darrell Dexter. “The province’s world-class research and technology are helping to create more jobs and enabling companies to better compete on the global stage. Those companies have talented Nova Scotians, young and old, working for them—people who are inventing, developing, and producing high-tech products that collectively earn more than \$1 billion annually.”

In 2011, the province released *Defined by the Sea: Nova Scotia’s Oceans Technology Sector Present and Future* and made a five-year, \$1.75 million investment to help develop the Halifax Marine Research Institute (HMRI). Since then, the province has provided focused attention to the sector to make the most of the opportunities evident from the report.

The Institute supported the successful \$25 million Networks of Centres of Excellence bid, leading to the creation of the Marine Environmental Observation and Response (MEOPAR), which is hosted at Dalhousie University. A partnership was also created with researchers at Germany’s largest scientific organization, the Helmholtz Association.

“World-class research opens doors to addressing economic challenges, as well as social and environmental challenges,” said the Institute’s CEO, Jim Hanlon. “As we learn more about the physical ocean environment and train new and existing researchers, we will unleash opportunities to develop and export solutions in fields as diverse as alternative energy, shipping, offshore resource extraction, climate change, medicine, nutrition, and marine hazard management.”



The province is supporting oceans technology companies and the growth of the sector through the Nova Scotia Jobs Fund, the Capital Investment Incentive Program, the Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive, and programs like the Graduate Placement and Student Employment Programs.

*“As a co-op student, I am gaining hands-on experience designing, prototyping, and testing acoustics related solutions with Geospectrum Technologies Inc. in Dartmouth,” said Craig Sheppard, Dalhousie University engineering student. “Working with a team of mechanical and electrical engineers has been a valuable learning experience and a stepping stone to a great career in this sector, which I am learning has a lot to offer.”*

## Facts

- Nova Scotia’s oceans technology sector is growing at a rapid rate. The revenues of oceans technology companies doubled from \$500 million in 2009 to \$1 billion in 2011.
- Oceans technology companies account for about 20 per cent of all research and development performed by businesses in Nova Scotia.
- Nova Scotia is home to world-renowned, ocean-related research institutions including the Bedford Institute of Oceanography and the National Research Council, Institute for Marine Biosciences.
- Dalhousie University is home to more than 100 researchers focusing on oceans and oceans technology.
- Irving Shipbuilding’s \$25 billion contract to build Canada’s next generation surface combatants will bring 30 years of sustainable jobs and spin-offs including those involved in oceans technology.



## Action in Oceans Technology

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the Nova Scotia JobsFund, the province provided \$1.7 million to support Bluedrop Performance Learning Inc. to build a defence training and simulation centre that will be the first of its kind in Canada.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Capital Investment Incentive Program is now extended to the oceans technology sector and provided investments for seven companies to help with cost savings and productivity improvements, while increasing their competitiveness in international markets.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive is supporting nine companies in the sector with training to help them be more competitive.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program is supporting 10 small and medium-sized companies in the sector, working with Nova Scotia universities and colleges to increase their innovation and productivity.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategic Co-operative Education Incentive is helping seven students explore roles like electrical and software engineering in the sector and the new Graduate Placement Program is increasing employment opportunities for graduates.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The province supported the launch of the Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia. The Department of Labour and Advanced Education is working with the Council to develop a strategy to raise awareness of job opportunities in the sector. Through this department, the province is also providing a \$800,000 investment to strengthen marine programming with new simulators, training aids, and safety equipment for the Nova Scotia Community College's Nautical Institute and School of Fisheries.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMRI established its operations, bringing together academic, industry, and government business partners to position Nova Scotia as an international leader in marine research within Canada and around the world.</li> <li>• Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Dalhousie University to witness the signing of the MOU between the HMRI and the Helmholtz Association—Germany's largest research institute.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The province will help oceans technology sector companies attend world-class conferences and events such as Ocean Business, Oceans America, and Underseas Defence Technologies.</li> <li>• Since the release of <i>Defined by the Sea: Nova Scotia's Oceans Technology Sector Present and Future</i>, the province supported more than 25 unique companies to participate in international oceans related conferences, trade missions, and shows.</li> <li>• The province was represented by 14 companies at the world's largest marine science and oceans technology event—Oceanology International 2012.</li> <li>• Nova Scotia companies will participate in seven international conferences this year across the United States, China, and Europe.</li> </ul>	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trade Centre Limited helped Nova Scotia win the bid for the 2013 BioMarine Business Convention.</li> <li>• In 2014, Halifax will host the International Conference on Ocean Energy.</li> </ul>	✓