

Call for Abstracts about to Open for OI 2014

The call for abstracts for Oceanology International 2014 (OI 2014), with its eight free-to-attend industry and technical conferences, is to open on 15 April 2013 and has a closing date of 30 August 2013.

The eight topics to be covered by conferences at Oceanology International 2014 at London's ExCeL between Tuesday 11 and Thursday 13 March 2014 are Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Showcase; Underwater Security; Marine Renewables – Survey, Installation and Maintenance; Underwater Positioning and Metrology; Underwater Communications (an introduction for 2014); Hydrography and Geophysics – Offshore Site Investigations; Ocean Observing Systems; and Oil and Gas – Operating in Extreme Environments. Additionally, there will be panel discussions on three topics new to Oceanology International that are set to drive demand for marine technology in the near future – aquaculture, ballast water, and subsea mining.

The organisers also are looking for input on three other key points – topics that individuals would like to see covered in the conference; speakers they would particularly like to hear from; and projects they would like to see featured. They see this sort of feedback as essential to ensure that OI achieves its objective of meeting needs across the extensive and global marine science and technology audience – OI attracts attendance from over 70 countries, including exhibitors from 35 different nations.

Held every two years, Oceanology International is the world's largest exhibition showcasing marine science and ocean technology solutions and the 7,210 m² exhibition is already 85% sold out.

As in 2012, Oceanology International 2014 will be preceded by the Catch The Next Wave conference on Monday 10 March 2014, which will continue the exploration of new scientific discoveries, disruptive and emergent technologies, such as novel power solutions, new materials, nanotechnology, developments in robotics and artificial intelligence, and how they may profoundly influence the ocean technologies of the future.

Professor Ralph Rayner is overall conference chairman again. Furthermore, many key players in the relevant sectors have agreed to chair their sectoral event during OI 2014; the list of chairs reads like an industry 'who's who' of the industry:

Dr Bob Allwood, chief executive of the Learned Society Patron, the Society for Underwater Technology will chair the Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Showcase; Professor Michael Bruno, Dean, Stevens Institute of Technology, USA and Justin Crump, CEO, Sibylline Risk and Security Consultancy, UK will co-chair Underwater Security; and Alan Moore, OBE, non-executive director, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and chairman of Ventus 2VCT plc will co-chair Marine Renewables – Survey Installation and Maintenance with Phil Durrant, managing director, Gardline Environmental and co-chair, Marine Industries Liaison Group.

Moving on to Underwater Communications shows Andy Bowen, director of National Deep Submergence Facility, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA; and Simon Partridge, engineering director, Sonardyne International, UK as co-chairs; Andy Hill, Marine Geohazard Technical Authority, BP Exploration, will co-chair the Hydrography and Geophysics conference, this time with Toby Powell, principal geotechnical engineer with Subsea 7; and Zdenka Willis, director, NOAA Integrated Ocean Observation will return to co-chair the Ocean Observing Systems conference with Dr David Mills, programme director, Marine Observatories, CEFAS. Other conference chairs will be announced shortly.