

# Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE Semi-Finalists to be Announced



Dr. Jyotika Virmani, a senior director at XPRIZE Foundation, a nonprofit innovation engine, will announce the semi-finalists of the USD7 Million Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE during 'Catch the Next Wave' (CTNW), the future-focused conference taking place on the final day of Oceanology International North America (OINA) at the San Diego Convention Centre, from 14-16 February 2017.

Up to 25 semi-finalists chosen from the 32 teams currently participating in the [Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE](#) will be announced during the Catalysing Innovation CTNW conference session on 16 February 2017. Semi-finalists will move forward to Round 1 testing starting in September 2017, where their entries will need to reach depths of 2,000m and produce high-resolution images from the deep-sea as they race to map a 500 km<sup>2</sup> area. Qualifying

teams will move onto Round 2, with September 2018 deep-sea tests challenging the teams to operate their solutions at depths of 4,000m. The winning team will be announced in December 2018.

Jyotika Virmani, Ph.D., senior director of XPRIZE's Planet and Environment domain, explains that creation, innovation and exploration drive scientific discovery and technological advancement. The synergies XPRIZE sees in the technologies highlighted at [Oceanology International North America](#) and Catch the Next Wave drive these advancements and they will change the understanding of the marine realm.

## Pioneer Underwater Sensing Technologies

XPRIZE semi-finalists will also have a shot at a USD1 Million bonus prize established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which will incentivise teams to pioneer underwater sensing technologies that detect biological and chemical signals and trace their source. This will allow development of rapid emergency response in addition to discovery and monitoring of new marine life and underwater communities in ways that never existed before.

The fourth edition of the one-day [Catch The Next Wave conference](#) has been incorporated into the OINA agenda as an addition to the final day of a strong conference program and exhibition, which has attracted the leading experts and professionals from the North American and global ocean science and marine technology communities to attend the event at the first OINA in San Diego next week.

This edition of CTNW, which is delivered in association with UC San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography has a very special focus, with VIP guest, ocean science pioneer and 'living legend' Walter H. Munk in attendance. During the year of his 100th birthday, the Scripps oceanographer Walter Munk will be honoured for his contribution to ocean science and technology.

In addition to the XPRIZE semi-finalists announcement, the Catalysing Innovation session at CTNW will also feature several other industry prizes, including The Society for Underwater Technology Oceanography Prize, The Vincent Cardone Memorial Prize for Marine Meteorology and The Oceanology Lifetime Achievement Award.