

Turquoise X Summit: Accelerating Blue-Green Innovation

26.-28.3.2025, Lanzarote/Arrecife

– Speaker –



© Adam de Sola Pool

Adam de Sola Pool | Partner in the Blue Angels Investment Group and Member of the Corporation Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Title of Presentation: N.N.

Adam is an experienced VC and Angel investor, mentor, and entrepreneur, with 20 years of sector experience in cleantech & ocean technology companies. Adam has helped to start more than 20 companies in the cleantech space. Most recently, Adam was the Special Advisor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and an Advisor to the PropellerVC fund (ocean tech). Currently, Adam as an Angel Investor is a Partner in the Blue Angels investment group (ocean technology), an affiliate member of Launchpad Ventures, and an Emeritus Partner of the Clean Energy Venture Group. Adam Mentors & Judges at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Ocean Impact Organization, & MassChallenge. Formerly, a CEO and a venture capitalist Adam helped to start over twenty renewable energy and environmental companies in central Europe. He invested through Environmental Investment Partners which was funded by family and HNW investor money. Among the companies he helped to start was Continental Wind Partners (wind development, founding CEO), Organica (waste water), Detox (circular economy), GazVest (gas infrastructure). Adam has been presented the Cleantech Investment Forum Pioneer Prize for his work in central Europe. Among the accomplishments of Continental Wind Partners (CWP) was the planning and building of what was then Europe's largest onshore wind park (600 MW) in Romania. CWP was exited in 2022 to Squadron Energy of Australia for \$2.7 billion. Additionally, as the former Chairman of the AmCham Energy & Environment Committee he acted as a liaison between America and Poland on energy issues. Prior to Adam's ocean and cleantech investment focus he was President of NFI Fortuna (1995-1997), Senior Banker of EBRD (1992-1995), and an associate in Salomon Brothers' M&A Department (1988-1992). Adam has a Masters Degree from the MIT Sloan School (1988), a BA from the University of Chicago (1981), and graduated from Phillips Academy at Andover (1976). Adam is a retired Chartered Financial Analyst. Adam's recent aquaculture focused investments have included farm management tools and seafood product tracking technologies. In the High Seas Adam has invested in floating energy systems and autonomous surface and underwater vehicles. Among Adam's impact investments are companies restoring coral reefs and utilizing invasive species to create leather and food products. Adam tries to inculcate a commitment to a triple bottom line (people, planet and profits) into all his work.



© Janade Du Plessis

Janade Du Plessis | Launch Africa Ventures

Title of Presentation: The exponential growth and impact of venture capital in Africa's digital transformation

Janade du Plessis is a 5-times Fund Manager, currently the Managing Partner of Launch Africa Ventures (the most prominent and active venture capital fund in Africa). Over the past 3-years, Launch Africa as invested in 150+ companies in 23 African countries.

He is the co-founder and advisor at Five35 Ventures (a leading Pan-African female focused VC fund). He has previously started and managed a corporate VC fund for a listed African investment bank, an female-focused Pan-African SME fund, as well as an impact fund called Abrazo Capital. He has invested in over 250+ technology startups across Africa and is an active angel investor.

Janade's background is as an entrepreneur (built and sold two businesses), investment banker and human behavioural researcher with M&A, management consulting and development finance experience.

To date, Janade has travelled to 50 of the 54 African countries. He is an Executive Coach with the International Coaching Federation. Janade holds Master's degrees in Finance, Economics, Psychology and Business Administration and currently conducting an extensive research study understanding the psychographic archetypes of African entrepreneurs.



© Kerstin Rolfes

Mar Fernández Méndez | Macrocarbon SL

Title of Presentation: Oceanic cultivation of floating seaweeds to defossilize our industry

Marine biologist and oceanographer specialised in algae and biogeochemical cycles with a Ph.D. in Polar Biological Oceanography and more than 15 years of experience.

Leader of a research group at the Alfred Wegener Institute, specialising in algae cultivation for carbon dioxide removal. At MacroCarbon, she leads innovative efforts to develop large-scale macroalgae aquaculture for carbon sequestration and biofuel production.



© Peter Fippinger

Peter Fippinger | Founder and Managing Director, Blue Crescent Group
Middle East Associate, World Ocean Council

Title of Presentation: Ocean Conservation and Sustainability of the Blue Economy

Peter Fippinger is the Founder and Managing Director of Blue Crescent Group Limited, a UAE-based advisory consultancy specializing in sustainability, environmental issues, climate action, and the Blue Economy. In addition to leading the firm's Blue Economy practice, Peter serves as an Associate with the World Ocean Council, the global Blue Economy business and investment organization. In this role, he fosters private sector engagement and strategic alliances across the Middle East.

With over 25 years of experience, Peter is a recognized expert in governance, policy development, and strategy for ocean sustainability. He has collaborated with international organizations, governments, NGOs, and private-sector entities across North America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and East Africa.

Peter has lived in the Middle East for more than 14 years. During this time, he has held prominent positions, including Head of NEOM's future environmental regulator and Senior Advisor to the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi. Prior to relocating to the region, Peter dedicated over 13 years to supporting the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government, as well as intergovernmental initiatives focused on ocean and climate science, public policy, and biodiversity conservation.

Peter holds an M.A. in International Environmental Policy and a B.A. in Biology. His contributions to the field have earned him several career achievement awards.

Prior to moving to the Middle East, Peter spent 10 years in various roles supporting the US Government and intergovernmental initiatives focused on oceans and climate science, policy, and management. Peter holds a MA in International Environmental Policy from Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, and a BA in Biology from North Central College; And has received several awards for his career achievements, including the John A Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship.



© Javier Garabal

Javier Garabal | Archipelago Next

Title of Presentation: N.N.

- General Partner of the canarian Venture Capital Fund Archiplego Next
- Former McKinsey Partner
- More than 35 years experience in business technology and digital startups



© Michael Henriksen

Michael Henriksen | Wavepiston

Title of Presentation: Bringing wave energy to the world

- Co-founder and CEO of Wavepiston since 2014
- Member of the board of directors of the Danish Wave Energy Center since 2017
- Entrepreneur for +20 years
- 15 years in financial industry / capital markets



© Paul Holthus/photo: P. Holthus

Paul Holthus | World Ocean Council

Title of Presentation: Advancing Sustainable Blue Economy Innovation through Ocean Industry and Finance Leadership, Collaboration and Action

Paul Holthus is a globally recognized leader in ocean, coastal and island sustainable development and environment. He has held senior positions with the UN Environment Programme, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy and other international organizations.

He has worked in 30+ countries, with companies, communities, industry associations, UN agencies, NGOs, and governments on practical ocean sustainability solutions. Paul founded the World Ocean Council (WOC) – the Global Blue Economy Business and Investment Organization – the international business leadership alliance on ocean sustainable development. The WOC brings together investment, shipping, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, oil/gas, offshore renewables, mining, submarine cables, ports, and other sectors for global business community leadership, collaboration and action on the future of the ocean.

In 2010, he launched the annual WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS), the premier high-level global ocean business and investment event on “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”. Paul created the WOC Ocean Investment Platform - the global structure/process linking investors, ocean industries and innovators, including the “Ocean Investor Roundtable”, “Global Blue Economy Innovation Initiatives Network” and annual Global Blue Finance Summit (BlueFIN).

Paul has advanced degrees in marine resources and international business, was a Fulbright scholar in Australia, is an East-West Center alum and has spent much of his life living and working in small islands. He is a regular speaker at international business, investment and intergovernmental events, was invited to be on the UN Secretary General’s ocean advisory panel for Rio+20 and is the only global ocean industry organization representative invited to address the UN General Assembly.



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Barbara Neuman | Research Institute for Sustainability – Helmholtz Centre Potsdam

Title of Presentation: N.N.

Barbara Neumann leads the Ocean Governance Research Group at the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) in Potsdam, Germany, since September 2022. Trained as a geographer, she has specialized human-environment interactions, sustainable development and (environmental) governance of coastal and marine areas. Her research aims to support the development and uptake of sustainable governance approaches and provide responses to pertinent and emerging challenges of ocean and coasts. She employs transdisciplinary and transformative research approaches at the interface of science, policy/administration, and civil society. Barbara Neumann studied geography at Saarland University, Germany and Simon Fraser University, Canada. In 2002, she completed a doctorate in Geography in 2002 at Saarland University and continued to work as research associate with Institute of Geography until 2010. From 2010 to 2017, she was a research associate in the working group Coastal Risks and Sea Level Rise at the Institute of Geography at Kiel University and member of the Cluster of Excellence "The Future Ocean" in Kiel, Germany. Here, she researched and lectured on climate change, sea-level rise impacts, and sustainability and governance of coastal areas. Barbara Neumann joined the RIFS (formerly the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS) in 2017 as senior research associate.



© Juan Luis Quincoces Soler

Juan Luis Quincoces Soler | Marina Innova Hub

Title of Presentation: N.N.

- CEO Marina Innova Hub, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, since April 2024
- Presidente en AELANZA, Asociación de Escritores de Lanzarote, since December 2023
- CEO de América Inmark America, April 2016 until April 2023
- Director General Fundación CENTAC "Centro Nacional de Tecnologías de la Accesibilidad, August 2011 until April 2016
- Owner LicITa Canal de Negocio, January 2008 until August 2011
- Director General ECSA-Europea de Comunicaciones, January 2005 until December 2007
- Delegado en Canarias Algoritmos, Procesos y Diseños, S.A. (APD), Lanzarote, Las Palmas, January 2003 until December 2005
- Director nacional Fintec Global Services, January 2002 until December 2003
- CEO México y Costa Rica Inmark México SA de CV, January 1994 until December 2003



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Rainer Quitzow | Research Institute for Sustainability – Helmholtz Centre Potsdam

Title of Presentation: N.N.

Rainer Quitzow leads the research Group "Geopolitics of Energy and Industrial Transformation" at RIFS. He joined the RIFS in December 2014. His research focuses on sustainable innovation and industrial policy and geopolitics of transitions in energy and industry. In particular, he analyses geoeconomic competition in emerging climate-friendly industries and the role of foreign and industrial policy strategies in this context. Rainer Quitzow is also Professor of Sustainability and Innovation (Honorarprofessor) at the Technische Universität Berlin.

Before his career as a researcher, Rainer Quitzow worked in the field of international development with a focus on governance and environmental and trade policy. At the World Bank in Washington, D.C., he conducted governance and policy impact analyses for development programmes in Latin America and Africa.



© E. Sauter, AWI

Eberhard Sauter | Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research

Title of Presentation: From Process Comprehension to Solution – Technology Transfer at the AWI

With a degree in geochemistry, Eberhard initially became involved in multidisciplinary deep-sea research (at Kiel University, GEOMAR, and AWI), where he took part in numerous seagoing expeditions, in particular to polar regions.

After making his own contributions to the development of new instruments and completing a degree in patenting, Eberhard moved into innovation management and became head of the AWI Technology Transfer Office in 2008. He is also involved in teaching as an honorary professor at Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences.



© Benjamin Sorkin

Benjamin Sorkin | Flux Marine

Title of Presentation: The right approach for maximum impact – electrifying the marine industry

Ben's passion for marine technology stems from summers growing up tinkering with boats and engines in upstate New York on Lake George. He launched the fundamental research behind Flux Marine while studying Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Princeton University. After garnering experience at Tesla and developing powertrain technologies for the Navy, Ben dove into Flux Marine full-time to electrify the marine industry. Since founding, Flux Marine has raised over \$25 million, built a team of 50 employees, and created thousands of hours of electric experiences. Ben also serves on the board of directors of the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association.



© REGENT Craft, Inc.

Billy Thalheimer | REGENT Craft

Title of Presentation: N.N.

Billy is the co-founder and CEO of REGENT. Since co-founding REGENT in late 2020, Billy has overseen growth of the company to over 100 employees, accumulated a commercial backlog of seaglider orders worth more than \$9 billion, and raised over \$90M from world-class investors like Founders Fund, Mark Cuban, Peter Thiel, Japan Airlines, and Lockheed Martin.

Billy honed his skills in human-crewed electric aircraft development at Boeing subsidiary Aurora Flight Sciences, where he was responsible for aircraft design, program management, and business generation for Boeing's portfolio of future air mobility solutions. Billy holds a B.S. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from MIT and is a licensed aerobatic pilot.



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Torsten Thiele | Global Ocean Trust

Title of Presentation: Advancing Sustainable Blue Economy Innovation through Ocean Industry and Finance Leadership, Collaboration and Action

- Founder, Global Ocean Trust
- Economist (Bonn), Public Policy MPA (Harvard), Conservation Lead MPhil (Cambridge) • 1987-2013 International project finance banker (JPMorgan, EBRD, BGB, Investec)
- Since 2014 Ocean Governance and Blue Finance Fellow (LSE, IASS, PML)
- Consultant Expert to BMU, EU, O14Capital, UNEP, WB
- Senior Advisor on Blue Finance: Ocean Risk & Resilience Action Alliance
- Regular author, conference speaker and lecturer on ocean solutions