



Next-Generation Maritime Autonomy: Uncrewed Maritime Systems Across Surface and Undersea Environments

October 6-8, 2026

Crowne Plaza Crystal City

1480 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA 22202

Arlington Ballroom (General Programming) - Alexandria Conference Room (Exhibitors)

PROGRAM OF SPEAKERS & EVENTS

Revision: C

9/10

TechSurge Organizers:

Andy Ziegwied, *Blue Functionality, MTS Uncrewed Maritime Systems Committee Chair*

Jacob Sobin, *Kongsberg and MTS Washington D.C. Section Chair*

Bill Sandberg, *Shoreline Sentry, Inc., MTS Bio-Inspired Marine Systems Committee co-Chair*

Jason Geder, *U.S. Naval Research Lab, MTS Bio-Inspired Marine Systems Committee co-Chair*

Philip Hoffman, *NOAA Ocean Exploration, Ocean Exploration Committee Chair*

Sadia Ahmed, *University of North Dakota*

Shayan Haque, *Exail, Inc.*

Joe Gradon, *Rutgers University*

Justin Manley, *Just Innovation Inc., MTS Past President and VP of Budget and Finance*

Hans VanSumeren, *MTS Senior Director, Ocean Enterprise Initiative*

Adrienne Copeland, *MTS Senior Manager, Ocean Enterprise Initiative*

Kristina Norman, *MTS Senior Director of Operations and Events*

Danica Vogel, *MTS Events Manager*

Tuesday, October 6

12:00-17:00	Registration Desk Open
13:00-17:00	Exhibits Open, Alexandria Conference Room
	<u>Please plan to view exhibits only during morning and afternoon breaks & lunch</u>
13:00-13:10	Welcome and Opening Remarks - Jacob Sobin
13:10-13:55	Keynote: Rachel Dempsy, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Navigation, Observations, and Positioning, NOAA's National Ocean Service

SESSION 1: Platforms & Bio-Inspired Systems

- 13:55-14:10 Julie Angus, Open Ocean Robotics: *Beyond Moorings: Continuous Ocean Observations with a Compact Solar-Powered USV*
- 14:10-14:25 Donglai Gong, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary's Batten School: *Autonomous cross-domain collaborative systems for a self-sustaining global ocean observing network*
- 14:25-14:40 Chidong Zhang, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL): *An Uncrewed Surface Vehicle to Meet Requirement of Monitoring Marine Weather and Climate*
- 14:40-14:55 Robert Smith, Hydronalix: *Scalable Bathymetric and Sonar Mapping Using EMILY, Ariel, and AMY Unmanned Surface Vehicles*
- 14:55-15:10 Oscar Curet, Department of Ocean and Mechanical Engineering, Florida Atlantic University: *Multi-directional Control of a Vessel with a Single Undulating Fin Propulsion Swimming in a Complex Flow*
- 15:10-15:25 **PANEL DISCUSSION – Session Chair / Panel Leader: Bill Sandberg**
- 15:25-15:45 **20 MINUTE BREAK – Coffee / Exhibit Area**
- 15:45-17:10 **Panel: Integrating Adjacent Tech, Market Dynamics, and Macro Trends in Maritime Autonomy**
 Stephane Vannuffelen, Exail, Inc.
 Matt Grove, Sonardyne
 Craig Connell, Terradepth
 Speaker 4: TBD
 Justin Manley, Just Innovation Inc., MTS Past President and VP of Budget and Finance (Moderator)

Wednesday, October 7

- 8:30-9:00 Refreshments available upon arrival
- 8:30-16:30 Registration Desk Open
- 8:30-16:30 Exhibits Open, Alexandria Conference Room
- Please plan to view exhibits only during morning and afternoon breaks & lunch**

SESSION 2: Network Connectivity - Comms and Information Dissemination

- 9:00-9:15 Joseph Gradone, Rutgers University: *A Multi-Source Data Portal Enabling Adaptive Sampling on a Research Cruise*

9:15-9:30	Arjun Prabhakar, Thalassa Robotics: <i>Thalassa Robotics: High speed, wireless, full duplex laser-based subsea communications for realtime mission data and human-in-the-loop</i>
9:30-9:45	Robert Smith, Hydronalix: <i>Mobile Gateway Buoy for Distributed Maritime Communications and Unmanned Undersea Operations</i>
9:45-10:00	Jimmy Spore, Woods Hole Group: <i>Beyond the Horizon: Evolving Connectivity and Positioning Architectures for Uncrewed Surface and Undersea Systems</i>
10:00-10:15	Evan Reinsberg, Sonarwiz: <i>Mission to Results in Minutes: Automated Cloud Processing for AUV Sidescan Data</i>
10:15-10:30	Matt Grove, Sonardyne: <i>GNSS-Denied by Default: Free-Inertial Navigation and Flexible Aiding for Cross-Domain Maritime Autonomy</i>
10:30-10:45	PANEL DISCUSSION – Session Chair / Panel Leader: Adrienne Copeland
10:45-11:05	20 MINUTE BREAK – Coffee / Exhibit Area
11:05-12:30	Panel: Global Partnerships in Cross-Domain Maritime Autonomy Michael Stewart, N86U, LLC. Commander Anders Jakobsen Rye, Norwegian Liaison Officer Anitra Keith, Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Commander Kele-Ann Bourne Jessen, Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Jacob Sobin, Kongsberg and MTS Washington D.C. Section Chair (Moderator)
12:30-13:30	LUNCH - Potomac Social Tavern and Veranda
SESSION 3:	Real-World Deployments
13:30-13:45	Steve Ruberg, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory: <i>Development of cold region monitoring techniques using autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs)</i>
13:45-14:00	Tosca Lichtenheld, Sofar Ocean: <i>From Exercise to Operational Insight: Lessons from Deploying Spotter Networks in Military Exercises</i>
14:00-14:15	Lev Looney, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <i>Navigating Extremes: NOAA's use of Uncrewed Maritime Systems for Tropical Cyclone Observations</i>
14:15-14:30	Sean Kelley, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution: <i>Hard-Won Operational Lessons from Two Decades of AUV Sentry Operations</i>
14:30-14:45	Michael P. Scherer, Chance Maritime Technologies: <i>USV Efficiency and Capability Unlocked in the Real World</i>

14:45-15:00	Christian Glander, ThayerMahan: <i>Design, Deploy, Discover: Lessons Learned Operating Autonomous Sensing Systems in Real-World Environments</i>
15:00-15:15	PANEL DISCUSSION – Session Chair / Panel Leader: Joe Gradone
15:15-15:35	20 MINUTE BREAK – Coffee / Exhibit Area
15:35-17:00	Panel: Uncrewed Maritime Systems: A Founder’s View Jean Crosetti, Bubble Robotics Stephen Piper, Juice Robotics Corporation Julie Angus, Open Ocean Robotics Jake Russell, Orpheus Ocean Hans VanSumeren, MTS Ocean Enterprise Initiative (Moderator)

NO HOST SOCIAL:

Water Park
1601 Crystal Dr,
Arlington, VA 22202

Thursday, October 8

8:30-9:00	Refreshments available upon arrival
8:30-12:00	Registration Desk Open
8:30-12:00	Exhibits Open, Alexandria Conference Room
	<u>Please plan to view exhibits only during morning and afternoon breaks & lunch</u>

SESSION 4: Enabling Technologies for Uncrewed Maritime Systems

9:00-9:15	Aman Ahmad, United Nations Development Programme: <i>From Mission to Decision: A Dual-Use Architecture for Uncrewed Maritime Systems in Data-Constrained Coastal States</i>
9:15-9:30	John Kliem, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory: <i>Multi-robot Adversarial Maritime Engagements: A Rapid Prototyping Pipeline for Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning Deployed in the Real World</i>
9:30-9:45	Glen Lewis, Georgia Tech Research Institute: <i>A MOSA-Based Modular Electronics Architecture for Compact Underwater Vehicles Using VITA 90.x Small Form Factor (SFF) Standards</i>
9:45-10:00	Imo Abasiokong, Center of Coastal and Ocean Mapping: <i>HydroCAM: Passive Multi-View Reconstruction of Surface-Vessel Geometry with On-Board Processing</i>
10:00-10:15	Paul Devine, Teledyne Marine: <i>Navigation Without GPS: Compact DVL/INS Solutions for Autonomous Maritime Systems</i>

10:15-10:30	PANEL DISCUSSION – Session Chair / Panel Leader: Shayan Haque, Exail, Inc.
10:30-10:50	20 MINUTE BREAK – Coffee / Exhibit Area
SESSION 5:	Dual Use / Dual Domain
10:50-11:05	Tosca Lichtenheld, Sofar Ocean: <i>From Commercial Ocean Intelligence to Defense Operations: A Dual-Use Architecture for Maritime Domain Awareness</i>
11:05-11:20	Stephane Vannuffelen, Exail, Inc.: <i>Dual-Use Operations with the DriX USV: From Fisheries Science to Maritime Security and Beyond</i>
11:20-11:35	Dr. Kevin Lopes, ThayerMahan: <i>From Whale Calls to Homeland Defense: How Autonomous Acoustic Sensing Enables Dual-Use Operations</i>
11:35-11:50	Dr. Antone "Tony" Eliassen, Ocean State Sensing: <i>Distributed Temperature Sensing Across Multiple Maritime Platforms</i>
11:50-12:05	PANEL DISCUSSION – Session Chair / Panel Leader: Jacob Sobin
12:05-12:50	LUNCH - Potomac Social Tavern and Veranda
13:15	Bus departs for Symposium (1:15pm)
13:45-19:15	34th Annual Oceaneering/Marine Technology Society Symposium
19:30	Bus departs for Crowne Plaza (7:30pm)

Please Visit with our Exhibitors!

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