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COVE--First Tenants Announced for New Ocean Hub

Ocean innovators will soon have a new place to work and collaborate, with the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship, known as COVE, set to open this spring. Five companies have signed tenant agreements for the new ocean hub located on the former Coast Guard site on the Dartmouth waterfront.

Taylor Widrig, Halifax, is one of the young innovators that will work out of COVE. Ms. Widrig is the founder and president of Mermaid Fare Inc., a company that specializes in the commercialization of seaweed. She started Mermaid Fare in 2013 and currently sells seaweed products locally and nationally.

"I am thrilled to be joining COVE," said Ms. Widrig. "Working out of COVE will help my business continue to grow in an energy-filled environment. This is a chance for us to step up our game and bring Mermaid Fare to the next level."

"COVE will help propel our ocean economy and give innovators the support they need to build great companies," said Premier Stephen McNeil. "Nova Scotia has a world-class ocean sector and COVE and the ocean supercluster initiative will significantly increase our share of the global ocean economy and create jobs here at home, benefiting all Nova Scotians."

"COVE will be a catalyst for economic growth in Nova Scotia and far beyond," said Jennifer Angel, acting president and CEO, Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd. "Construction is nearly complete and we look forward to welcoming the world to COVE this spring."

Other companies confirmed to work out of COVE include:

- Kraken Robotics Inc, a marine technology company that designs sensors for unmanned underwater vehicles
- Sensor Technology Ltd., a designer and manufacturer of piezoelectric ceramic products
- LeeWay Marine, a marine services company that helps others conduct hydrographic and geographical surveying by supplying vessels and crew
- Dominion Diving, a marine services company specializing in commercial diving and marine towing

Six ocean start-ups will also move into COVE's Start-Up Yard incubator and receive business acceleration support from Innovacorp. They are:

- Ashored Innovations, an ocean company developing intelligent buoy systems that provide ropeless fishing solutions for improved operational safety and wildlife protection
- BlueNode, a company that simplifies data collection, analysis and visualization for the maritime logistics industry
- Happy Fish Technologies, a company developing a traceability system for seafood producers and distributors
- Marecomms, a company developing underwater acoustic systems enabling wireless

communications over long distances

-- Maritime BioLoggers, a company developing customizable, multi-channel data collection sensors to better assess animal movement in harsh environments

-- Atlantian Acoustics, a company developing acoustic platform enabling wireless communications for autonomous underwater vehicles

COVE will host an exclusive preview for tenants, partners and other community members in early June. The public will also be invited to tour COVE on June 9.

FOR BROADCAST USE:

Ocean innovators will soon have a new place to work once the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship, known as COVE, opens this spring.

Five companies have signed tenant agreements for COVE's hub and six ocean start-ups will move into COVE's Start-Up Yard incubator.

Taylor Widrig of Halifax is moving her seaweed business, Mermaid Fare Inc., into COVE and expects the move will help her business continue to grow in an energy-filled environment.

Premier Stephen McNeil says COVE will help give innovators the support they need to build great companies and create new jobs in the growing ocean economy.

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