



The NEPTUNE Mission mobilizes a global public–private consortium, operating under a multi-stakeholder special vehicle purpose and an independent Scientific Council, to accelerate major Ocean explorations, programs of Observation and innovation, open science, education, and international cooperation.

NEPTUNE-labelled expeditions combine cutting-edge exploration (**Neptune Explorations**), pioneering research, development, observation and technologies (**Neptune Fellows**), and immersive storytelling (**Neptune Explorers Gallery**), in order to maximize their scientific, economic, diplomatic, and societal impact (**Neptune Forum**).

8 Scientific Challenges:

Mapping of Habitats | Abundance in Key Areas| Seamount Biodiversity | Polar Oceans | Hydrothermal systems and bio-inspiration | Blue carbon sinks | Paleogenomic archives | Genetic resources

Each of these eight challenges are supported by a set of cross-cutting enablers: **Neptune Exploration Priority Areas (NEPA), Technologies for Observation and Exploration, Next-generation Modeling, Science to Policy interface, and the inclusion of Early-Career Ocean Professionals**, notably from the Global South in the Neptune Fellows programme.

The **Neptune Forum**, a high-level think tank bringing together senior leaders from the fields of economy, finance, and sustainable development, will promote—particularly through the Ocean–Space nexus to enable a new, unified, and informed understanding of the Ocean, its peoples, and the planet.



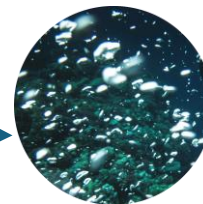
MISSION NEPTUNE

FOR OCEAN EXPLORATION, INNOVATION AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

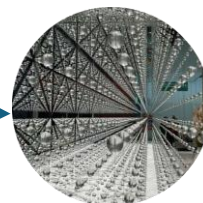
A Global public–private consortium dedicated to exploration, observation, innovation, education and international cooperation.

A collaborative alliance bringing together research fleets, space agencies, public research institutions, philanthropic foundations, investors and enterprises.

Adopting an integrated water-column approach, encompassing both the ocean surface and the deep seabed, with a particular focus on **Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)**.



NEPTUNE EXPEDITIONS : Exploration program for data integration, knowledge co-production and science-policy bridge.



NEPTUNE FELLOWS: Research and development fellowships for early-career ocean professionals and post-doctorates, aligned with NEPTUNE's eight scientific challenges.



NEPTUNE FORUM: A high-level think tank composed of 10 Commissioners from the fields of economy, finance, and sustainable development, serving as a platform for collective intelligence and international cooperation through shared science and blue diplomacy. It convenes once a year as a global event on the occasion of **World Ocean Day**.



NEPTUNE EXPLORERS GALLERY :
A space where science and imagination converge to illuminate the High Seas & Deep Ocean as humanity's shared horizon.

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Governance model

Patrons: Under the High Patronage of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, and H.H. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah (UAE), together with a group of distinguished personalities including Andrew Forrest, Sylvia Earle, Ray Dalio and Prince Hussain Aga Khan.

Executive Board of Trustees: Co-chaired by IFREMER and the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, bringing together founding members as well as public and private institutions and philanthropies.

Independent Scientific Council: Coordinated by IFREMER, under Dr. Jean-Marc Daniel, co-chaired by Dr. Margaret Leinen (Director Emerita, Scripps Institution of Oceanography) and Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin (former Executive Secretary of UNESCO Ocean).

Neptune Europa Ocean (NEO) coalition: co-chaired by Ambassador Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, with invited member states.

General Secretariat: led by Ashok Adicéam, Executive Director, supported by Teodora Stojilkovic and Louise Perrin.

Objectives by 2027

Five NEPTUNE-labelled exploration programmes, eight Neptune Fellows, three academic chairs and 10,000 students mobilised through marine university networks, an annual NEPTUNE Forum held on 8 June on the occasion of World Oceans Day, and the expansion of the public-private consortium to more than 30 partners and 30 expedition vessels. Neptune Explorer's Gallery in Paris and satellites/mobile versions in the world..

Financing

Compared to investments dedicated to space exploration, which amount to several tens of billions of euros, efforts devoted to ocean exploration still rely on fragmented and relatively modest funding.

The NEPTUNE Mission aims to pool research programmes, "member" fleets, and storytelling and dissemination capacities in order to strengthen fundraising potential and create the scale effect required for the development of exploration, observation, and innovation, with a target of **€1 billion**. The objective is to mobilise **€150 million** during the first cycle, 2026–2027.

In parallel, with the support of the Founding Members, **€4 million annually** over the same period will be allocated to the operational costs of the coordination platform, infrastructure, the Explorers Gallery, and major events.

The funding model is based on a combination of public, philanthropic, industrial contributions, and dedicated innovation funds.

NEPTUNE

EXPLORERS GALLERY IN PARIS OPEN TO ALL

A multi-sensory narrative &
A transformative journey blending art, cutting-edge
science & sensory storytelling.

Diplomatic & Cultural:
Open science as a common ground

***Exploratory &
Scientific***
*Unveiling the ocean's
mysteries and promises*



***Immersive &
Poetic***
Feel, imagine, engage

Transformative
From experience to collective action

