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OCEANSLAB
CLEANTECH ACCELERATOR
THE LATEST
TEAM UPDATE

SUCCESSES AND SETBACKS... A RECIPE FOR PROGRESS!

NEWSLETTER #6

AN UPDATE FROM PHIL

"We have just got back to base in La Rochelle following our first real offshore sail around Biscay, which was nothing short of a major discovery mission for OceansLab.

"Over the last few weeks, from launching and preparing the boat to heading offshore, we have had both success and a few setbacks, providing the ups and downs that further amplify the challenge we are taking on.

"However, if we look back to where we were a month ago, we have made some incredible progress in developing a team, shaking down our new foiling craft, and successfully refuelling and certifying our highly innovative clean energy technologies.

"Our first big event focus this year was to be at the start line of the Retour à la Base in Martinique, a qualifying event for the Vendée Globe 2024, which first meant we had to sail OceansLab across the Atlantic, in the tight timeframe we had.

"This was an ambitious task based not only on delays in the boat construction, but notably the relentless gales and heavy winds that have been hitting our coasts since late October, which made sea trials totally impractical - as we saw with the delayed departure of the Transat Jacques Vabre.

"Following an initial upwind delivery sail in heavy airs, gusting up to nearly 40 knots, we stopped in La Coruña to do a full structural check and address a few issues, before heading off across the Atlantic.

"With the help of Jure Jerman, our weather router, we identified an efficient northerly routing option passing close to the Azores and, with our 4-strong team, left La Coruña for Martinique, all of us very fired up for the challenge ahead.

"This was cut short just a hundred miles into our trip when the bowsprit of the boat failed, forcing us to abandon our attempt. Very simply, the inability to fly any of the boat's downwind and reaching sails, which would have prohibited us reaching Martinique in time.

"We are looking into the cause of this failure, which occurred in medium-wind conditions, for which Black Pepper Yachts as the boat constructor, is giving us full support and a professional third-party diagnosis.

"We gave this first challenge everything we could have given based on the uncontrollable constraints that we had - delays due to weather, and of course we were no exception to the global impact on supply of materials during the build - we did all we could within our sphere of control.

"This time we were defeated. But we didn't fail. Not to have tried would have been a failure.

"Success is the sum of many small efforts. If I have learnt anything from ocean racing, in an environment of such uncertainty, it is to persevere. To keep focus and continue to strive towards our longer-term goals. Then, without doubt, we can move closer to success.

"We now have a tested platform, and a clear reference point to build from and I look forward to the next few weeks as we return to the boatyard to make some important repairs and a few upgrades.

"We will use this setback as an opportunity to better prepare ourselves for the beginning of next season, so that we can take the next big step forward. But first, for me, after a brief 24 hours at home, I have been invited to Monaco to be a panellist on the subject of clean mobility and sport at the Monaco Hydrogen Forum organised by the Monaco Hydrogen Alliance.

"It's all go here!

"Phil."

Phil Sharp, Skipper, OceansLab - Cleantech Accelerator



Credit: Mark Lloyd

THE MONACO HYDROGEN FORUM - 27th & 28th NOVEMBER 2023

Last year during the first Monaco Hydrogen Forum held by the Monaco Hydrogen Alliance, our Partner Genevos was the proud winner of the first edition of the Monaco Prize for Innovation in Renewable Hydrogen and Transportation.

This year, the second edition was held under the High Patronage of H.S.H Prince Albert of Monaco, and the theme of the forum was 'Driving Green H2 Revolution: Investment, Innovation and Infrastructure'.

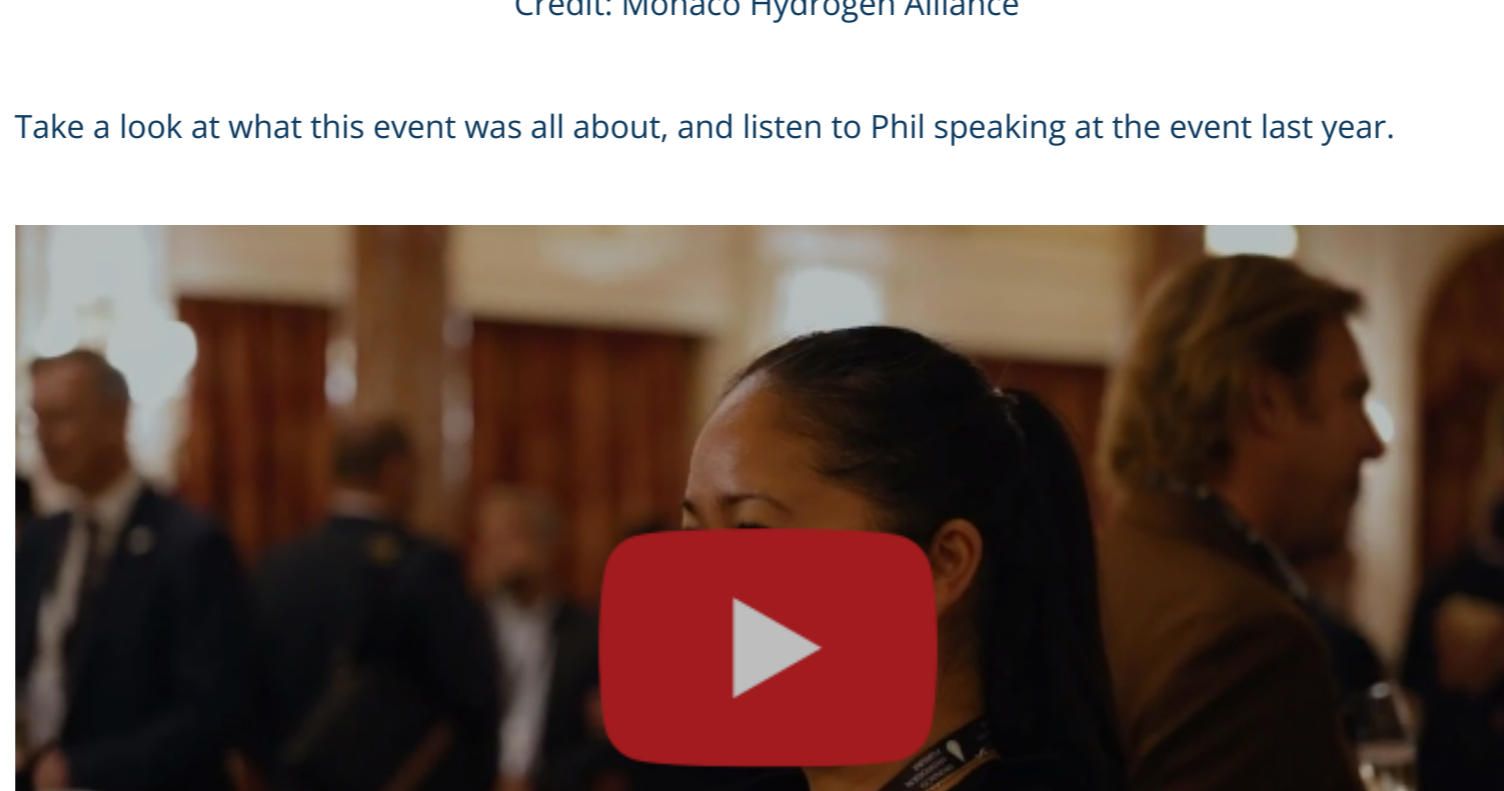
By special invitation, Phil joined this prestigious event this week as a panellist on 'The Clean Mobility Race: Sports and Hydrogen' round table. The panel discussed the growing role of hydrogen in competitive racing, both on land and on water as well as how these innovations are creating commercial opportunities for hydrogen vehicles.

Phil was able to talk about OceansLab's recent success, learnings and innovations behind the launch of the world's first hydrogen IMOCA race yacht.



Credit: Monaco Hydrogen Alliance

Take a look at what this event was all about, and listen to Phil speaking at the event last year.



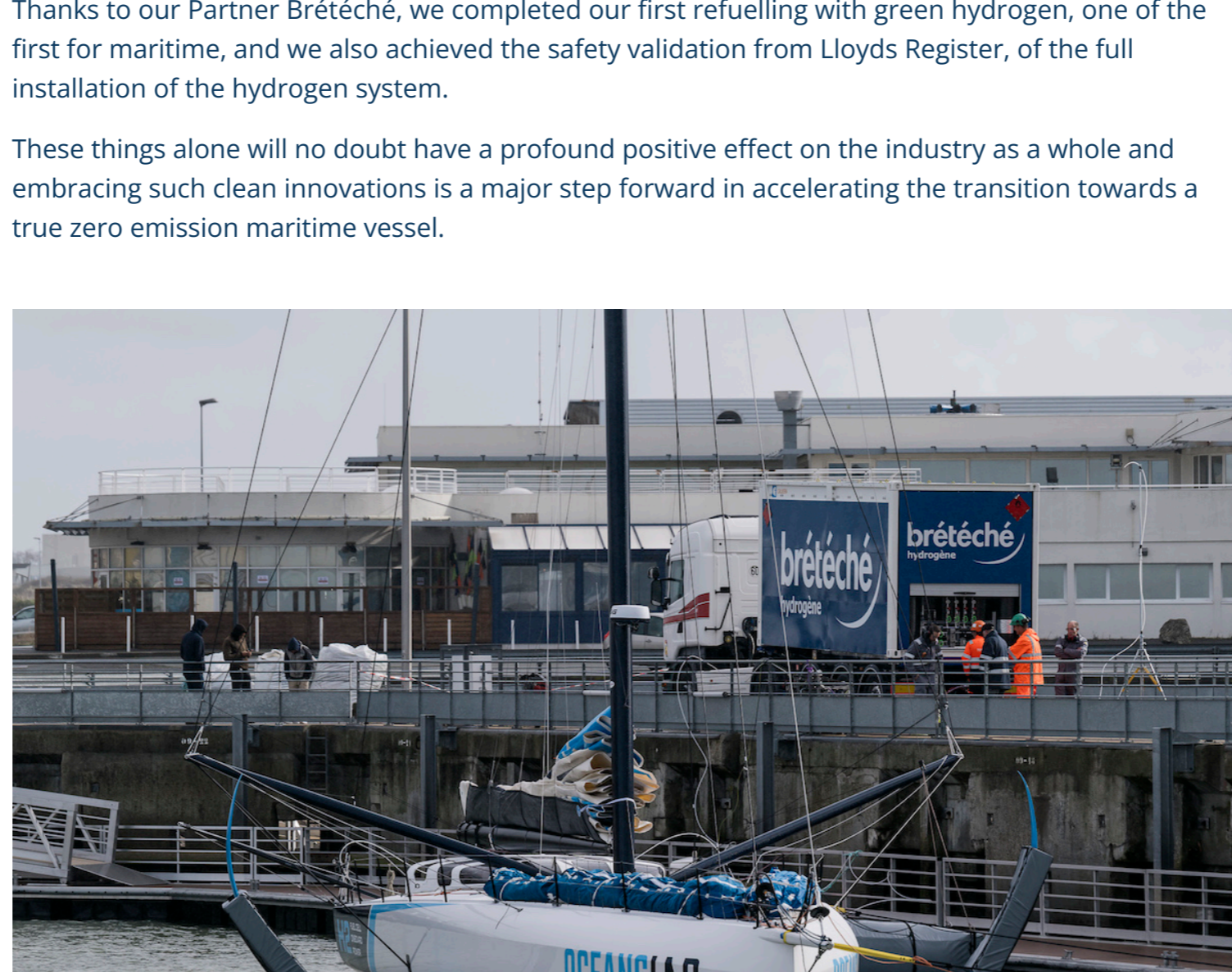
Credit: Monaco Hydrogen Alliance

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

It's very positive to look back at what the OceansLab team has achieved with our energy innovations over the last few weeks.

Thanks to our Partner Brétéché, we completed our first refuelling with green hydrogen, one of the first for maritime, and we also achieved the safety validation from Lloyd's Register, of the full installation of the hydrogen system.

These things alone will no doubt have a profound positive effect on the industry as a whole and embracing such clean innovations is a major step forward in accelerating the transition towards a true zero emission maritime vessel.



Team at Genevos
Credit: Olivier Blanchet

DID YOU KNOW?

What is a bowsprit?

A bowsprit is a spar extending forward of the vessels bow to fly larger foresails for reaching and downwind conditions, referred to as gennakers. Gennakers are flatter, stronger membrane sails used in places of traditional spinnakers for these high speed foiling vessels, and carry very high tension in cables through the front of the sail to maintain a fly, efficient profile. The high tension from these gennaker cables is counteracted by a bobstay, that runs from the end of the bowsprit to the lower bow of the vessel.



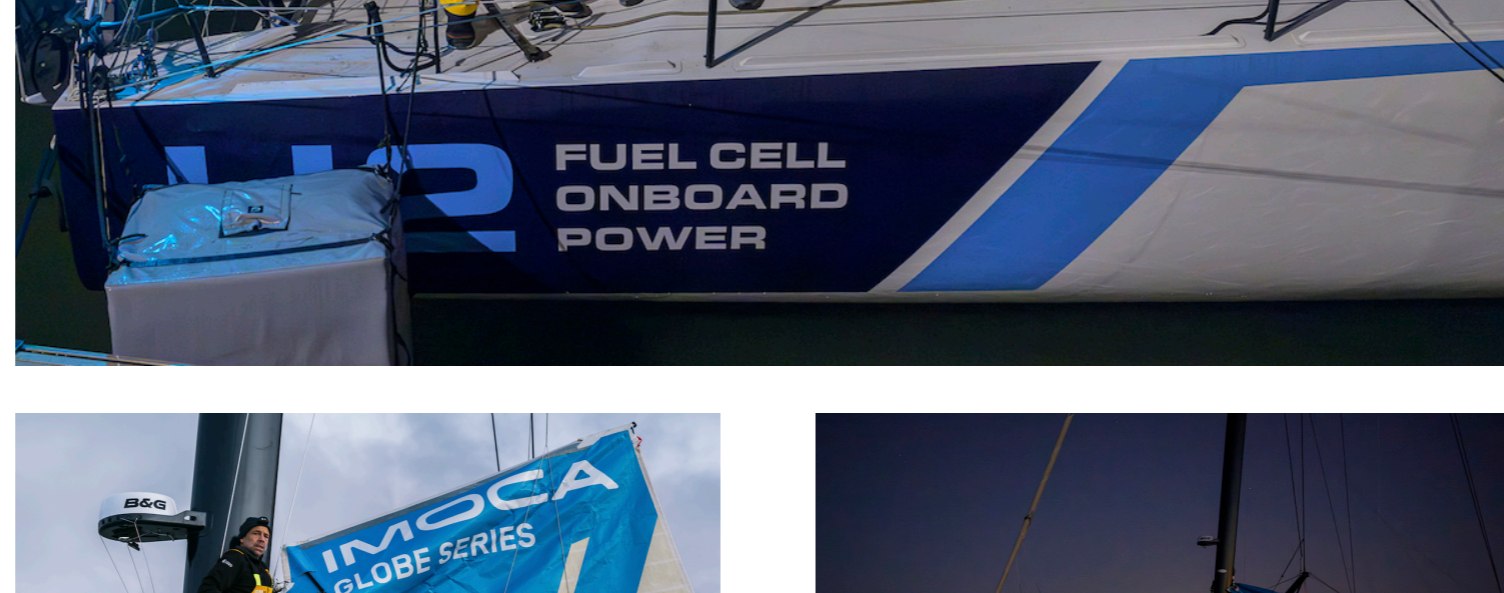
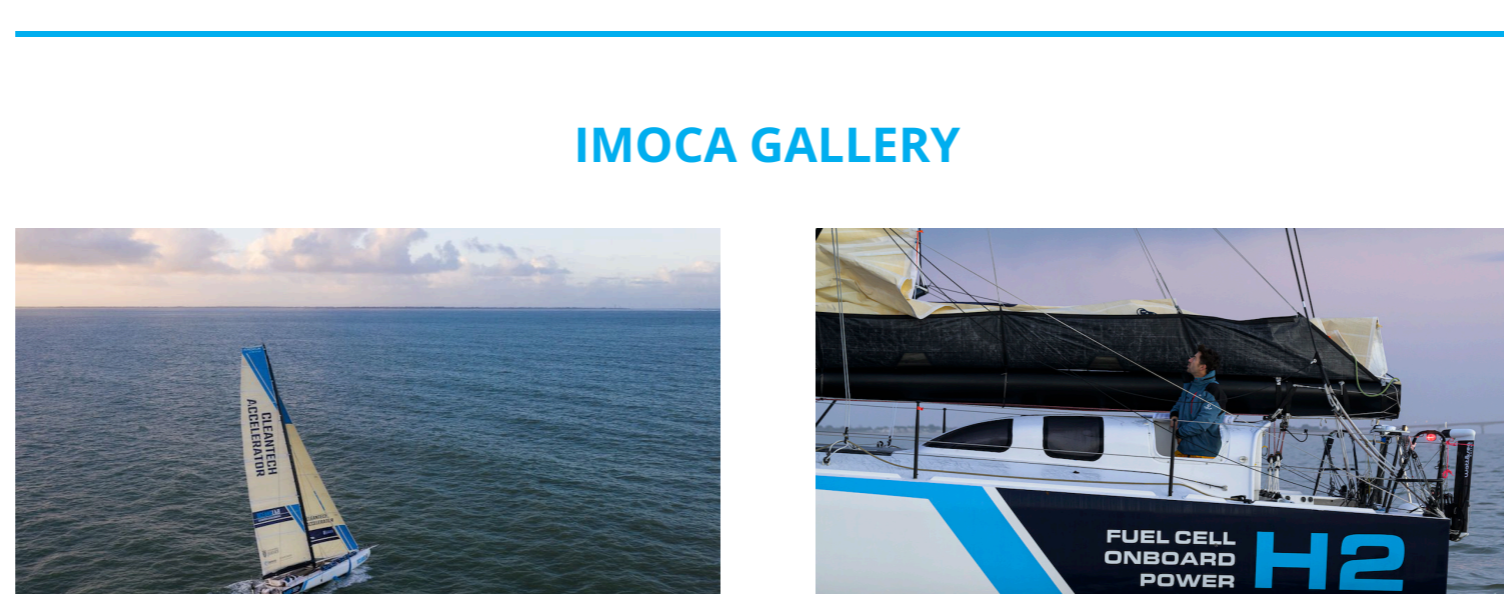
Credit: PuraVida Images

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Unique opportunity to become a lead partner of OceansLab and support our mission to accelerate the uptake of high performance clean innovations through the world's most extreme ocean races.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

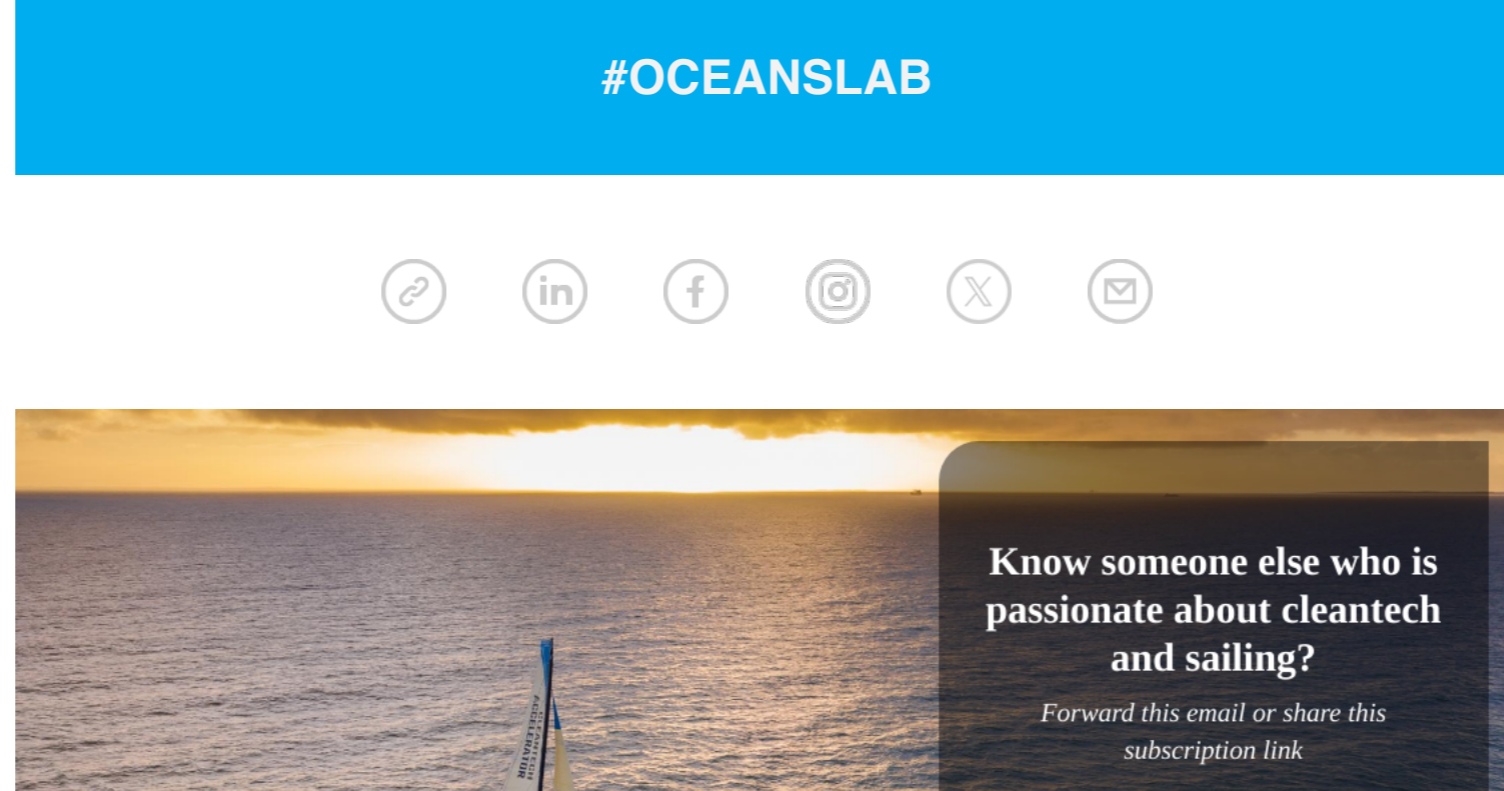
IMOCA GALLERY



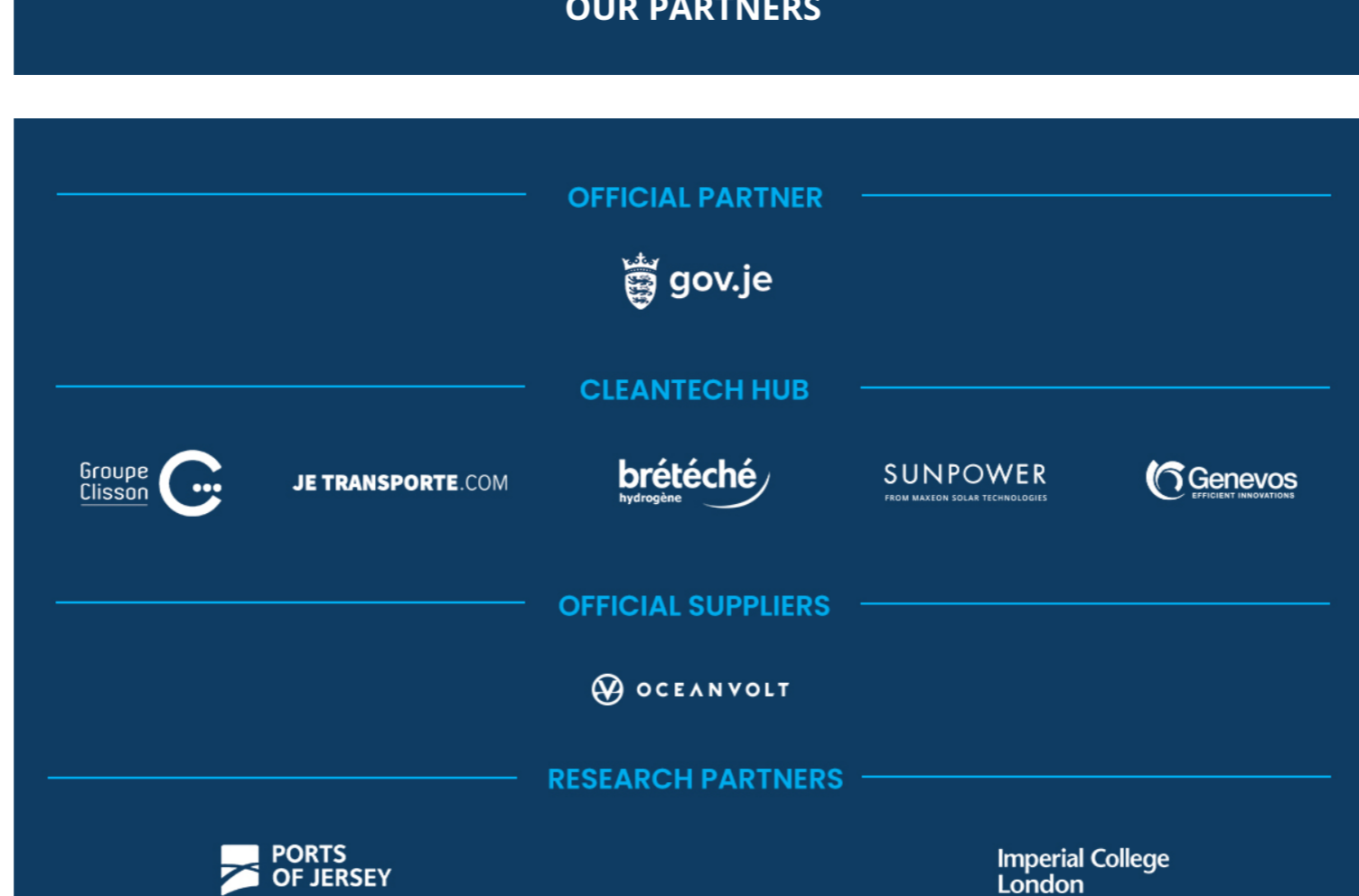
Credit: Olivier Blanchet / PuraVida Images

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PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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