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**The International Ocean Science and Technology Industry Association Launches  
*New industry association IOSTIA to represent companies that explore, and commercially and sustainably utilize the Earth's oceans***

(Washington, DC): Filling a needed niche in the oceans science and technology space, a new international industry association launched today to provide programs, services, and a unified voice on Capitol Hill and in the regulatory agencies to companies that sustainably and commercially utilize the oceans.

IOSTIA (IO-sha), the **International Ocean Science and Technology Industry Association** <http://www.iostia.org> is a new 501(c)(6) industry association representing businesses that provide technology and services for sectors such as:

*Renewable ocean energy  
Environmental monitoring  
protection  
Fisheries and aquaculture  
Marine science  
Maritime security  
Ocean mining*

*Marine telecommunications  
Autonomous vehicles  
Offshore wind energy  
Oceanography  
Subsea mining  
Sensors  
Arctic change*

*Marine archeology  
Ocean observations  
Hydrography  
Ports and infrastructure  
Diving and manned  
exploration*

IOSTIA's goal is to provide programs and services that create new opportunities and encourage a favorable business environment for science and technology companies that sustainably utilize the oceans. IOSTIA will also develop a serious, substantive, and unified voice in Washington on issues that matter exclusively to ocean science and technology companies.

With nearly 2/3rds of blue-tech companies located outside of North America, this new industry association will also be international in scope and substance; engaging the foreign Embassies located in Washington to assist international companies entering the U.S. market.

"There are tremendous organizations, foundations, and institutes committed to our oceans, and we look forward to working with all them all, but most are not organized as business industry associations, focused on professional networking and pro-active lobbying efforts for the industry aimed at Congress and the Administration. IOSTIA fills that niche," remarked Richard Lawson, president of IOSTIA.

IOSTIA looks forward to professionals in the industry joining IOSTIA. For more information about membership, please visit the IOSTIA website at: <http://www.iostia.org/member-benefits.html>

"Often, companies in this industry space are members of various associations; but just like a shoe that doesn't quite fit, their membership experience also doesn't quite fit. For instance, an ocean technology company, with no serious connection with oil and gas, may find itself uncomfortably jammed into a petroleum-related association because it is the closest option. Companies like this shouldn't have to settle. They need an association where the shoe finally fits perfectly. IOSTIA fits that need," continued Lawson.

IOSTIA is active on LinkedIn at: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/iostia>