

OceanConnected

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One of the major global challenges facing our societies is their low level of literacy and involvement on ocean matters. To become aware and convinced of the alarming ocean condition and to start building a Blue Society that prioritizes collective and sustainable management of ocean, one needs to dive underwater. But today, out of 1,000 persons in the world, only one practices scuba diving and has the right perception of ocean. This explains public opinion passivity to degradation of ocean. Unless this situation changes drastically, ocean will remain at risk.

The only way to accomplish this change, quickly and globally, is by introducing digital technologies in aquatic activities allowing every internet user to “see”-in real time and interactively, under the water surface.

OceanConnected aims to link, via internet, a community of 2.5 million professional scuba divers around the world, which industry is sluggish, with internet users, including in mobility, which market is booming and extends worldwide. This direct communication link between internet users and ocean depths through scientific diving professionals, constitutes a technological rupture that shall revolutionize ocean knowledge suddenly able to reach some 3 billion connected people.

The concept, named “virtual dive”, uses a patented, innovative, submersible, connected multimedia console named Dolphyn, associated with a multisided web platform and with dedicated applications. Contrary to scuba dive which is expensive, risky and is not a sustainable business, virtual dive targets a global market, offering an activity without ecological footprint, accessible to all, everywhere, at any time, at a marginal cost tending to zero with its growth. Concerned stakeholders belong to six communities that will generate new business through the platform: tourism, science, education, yachting, snorkelling and diving thus fuelling viral growth of the concept.

The project answers to a vital need for ocean knowledge, for evasion and to return to Nature of our crowded, polluted, stressful urban societies. With just a click, you will be transported virtually and instantly, from Paris sombre underground to Tahiti marvellous underwater reefs, interfacing with a local marine expert and linked to a cloud of related information, including games, e-learning and scientific data bases. With the progress of underwater optics, virtual images may surpass images perceived by divers.

The project targets initially EU overseas realm, its Economic Exclusive Zone. Six times its land, is the larger and most diversified marine zone in the world. But a majority of Europeans ignore it. In this global ocean, priority will be given to coral reefs, Nature jewels and storehouses of undiscovered genetic resources that are at risk of extinction, consequence of human activities. Their destruction will have a direct impact on lives of a billion people

OceanConnected background is EU financed project Digital Ocean. A proof of concept was validated on October 2015 in partnership with the University Pierre and Marie Curie (Laboratory Arago). The feasibility assessment, fine tuning the match product-customer and finalising system operations, will pave the way to market introduction in 2017. Science, technology, finance and business partners are welcomed to joint this venture.