

Ocean Exchange Contest Rules 2021

Thank you for applying for the 2021 Ocean Exchange award cycle. In order to apply for the 2021 Orcelle® and Neptune Awards we ask that you read and be aware of the following. If you advance to the semifinalist round and want to be eligible to be a finalist, we will ask that you agree to these conditions.

Please be aware, this is an in-person event with no option to present virtually. Specific COVID-19 safety protocols will be published at a later date, however, note that there will be safety protocols in place.

1. All **finalists** must attend, in person, Ocean Exchange Oct 24-26 in Fort Lauderdale, FL USA. Your pitch portion of the program will begin morning of Oct 25th. It is up to you who attends but we want a senior person i.e., a founder or the CEO or CTO. You must stay until the end of day October 26th when winners are announced and attend a celebratory dinner of Oct 26th
2. All **finalists** must pitch for ~15 minutes, in person, on stage at our event in front of our audience of delegates from business, government, academia, and NGOs.
3. We plan to provide a one-page summary of all **semifinalists** to all our delegates UNLESS you opt out. You can see the one-page summary in advance to insure there are no overly sensitive items, but we will draw on information from your F6S file. If you are selected as a **finalist**, it is a requirement to have a one-page summary available for our delegates at the event. Finalists cannot opt out.
4. If you are a **finalist**, we will do a press release and social media shortly after Sept 27th announcing who the finalists are with a short 2-3 sentence description of your solution.
5. If you are an **award winner**, we will do a press release and social media about your solution and company. That press release typically goes out several days after our event.
6. We will pay for one coach round trip ticket for your **finalist** presenter to attend Ocean Exchange. You are required to book that airfare as soon as possible after we inform you of your finalist position. We will inform you of the airfare booking procedure if you are a finalist. We will provide one hotel room at a hotel we arrange for Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights. We provide ground transportation between the hotel and the event venue each day. We also pay a flat \$50 roundtrip for ground transportation between airport and hotel. If you drive, we will reimburse your mileage at the 2021 IRS approved rate.
7. If you are a **finalist**, we provide presentation coaching to you in advance of the event via a third-party firm Braid Theory. While this is optional, we highly recommend that you take advantage of it. The coaching will be done remotely via Skype or other video technology.
8. Ocean Exchange DOES NOT ask that **winners** give us equity in exchange for the cash awards. We never have asked for equity in our past 9 years.

9. If you are a **winner**, we do ask that you give back to Ocean Exchange which is a 501c3 non-profit. If you win either of the \$100,000 awards, we ask that you give a minimum contribution back to Ocean Exchange of \$5000 within five years of the anniversary of your award. If during that five-year period you have a major investment or buy out, we ask that you give a larger contribution (or that your investor makes a contribution) between \$5000 and \$25,000, based on the size of the qualifying event. All funds will be held in a separate account and used to fund one of the Ocean Exchange Awards. This is a pay-it-forward plan so that if you are successful, you will help another start up winner.

If during the five-year period, a contribution of \$5000 is a hardship and you want to be treated as an exception, we ask that you communicate that with us. Basis of hardship is dissolution of the company, failure to raise any funds, failure to secure sales or other revenue sources, inability to secure the permits to operate as intended, bankruptcy, failure to generate a positive cash flow etc. We will certainly honor any reasonable hardship requests. Again, if you are successful, we want you to help future start up winners.

We also will offer you or your investor/strategic partner a board seat with Ocean Exchange with any contribution back of at least \$10,000 so that you can have impact and influence in helping future start ups.

10. Each **finalist** must give us a quarterly report in the year following the award how the award funds were used and what key milestones have been met.
11. You are prohibited from publicly announcing your spot as a **semifinalist**. You are also prohibited from disclosing your spot as a **finalist**, should you be selected, until we issue our press release.
12. If you cannot fulfill the role of a **finalist or winner**, please inform us prior to applying as a **semifinalist**.