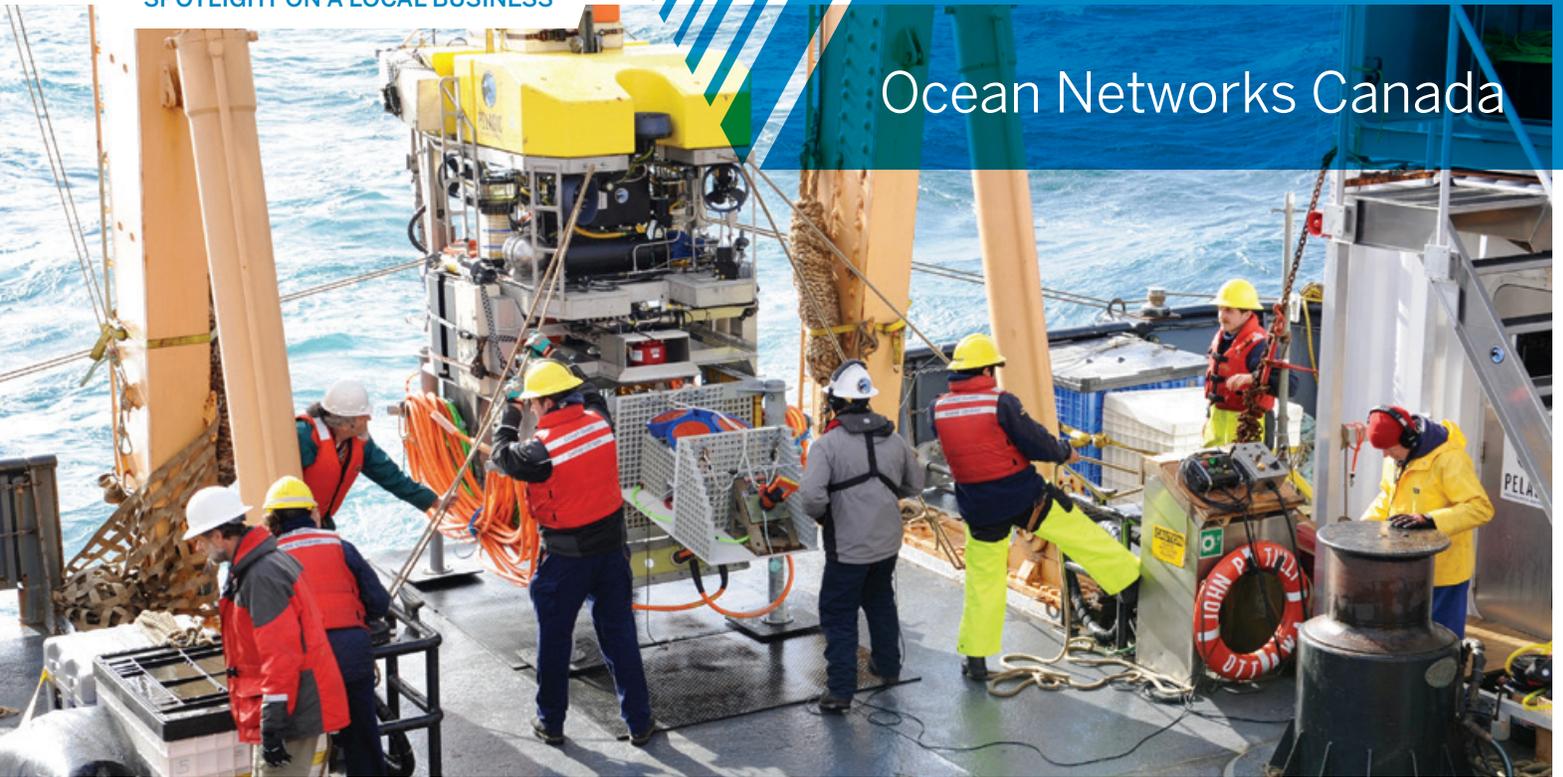


# Ocean Networks Canada



With 900 kilometers of underwater telecommunications cable and some of the world's largest underwater research labs, Ocean Networks Canada has created vital research infrastructure that provides data to more than 40,000 users in BC and around the globe. Nationally, it is a key player in the marine and ocean science sector, working with government, communities and private companies to develop and build technologies that protect and help us manage the ocean environment.

## Operations

The University of Victoria's Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) monitors the west and east coasts of Canada and the Arctic to continuously deliver data in real-time for scientific research to create knowledge that helps communities, governments, and industry make informed decisions about our future.

**Year founded** 2003

**Primary Market** Domestic and international

**Employees** 140 full-time

## Q&A

**Scott McLean** | Director, Innovation

[www.oceannetworks.ca](http://www.oceannetworks.ca)

### How did Oceans Networks Canada get its start?

In the 90s, scientists from Canada and the US had the idea of installing power and Internet-connected cables on the seafloor to continuously monitor the ocean over long periods. Moving from intermittent ship monitoring to streaming, real-time fiber optic technology spurred a need for new ocean technology and sensor development in Canada. Canada has since invested over \$300 million in Ocean Networks Canada.

“There's very little competition between companies in the sector. Each one seems to have its own niche. So we get together and talk about opportunities, see each other in groups and at conferences. It's definitely a supportive environment.”

Scott McLean

**What is the state of the ocean and marine sector in Victoria?**

With 40-50 ocean tech companies, Victoria is a rich environment that enables collaboration with a variety of corollary companies and private industry. Victoria is currently seeing a welcome increase in spin offs and new startup companies in this sector due, in part, to the next generation of university graduates boasting a real entrepreneurial skill set.

**Is the sector growing?**

It is predicted that this sector will triple in coming years. There's growth in ocean monitoring and in off shore energy systems – like wind, tidal and wave. The increase in shipping by sea has spurred more interest in protecting and monitoring the ocean and increasing marine protected areas.

**What is your role in the ocean and marine sector?**

ONC's role is to build and maintain a world leading ocean observing research infrastructure by working with industry partners to support, develop and test technology. Students from universities and colleges around the country are hired and trained by ONC in all aspects of building and maintaining ocean observing networks, resulting in a growing capacity of these skills in BC. ONC also focuses on fostering strong relationships with coastal and Indigenous communities, and has a successful program that hires students from remote regions.

**What would you recommend about working in Victoria?**

Victoria is a great place to live with a vibrant ocean tech sector. There is also a rich ecosystem of other businesses that support technology development, including machine shops, IT companies, and easy access to the ocean for testing equipment.

