



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COAST Announces Winner of Highly Anticipated 2024 Pitchfest

[Vancouver B.C., April 22, 2024] – After a lengthy selection process and tremendous presentations, COAST is thrilled to announce the winner of our first annual 2024 Pitchfest.

The event, which brought together some of the most innovative minds in the B.C. Marine Industry, showcased groundbreaking ideas and entrepreneurial spirit. The competition was tight, highlighting the incredible creativity and ingenuity within the Blue Economy.

The five finalists were: Bruce Bradley from Bee Sea Kelp and Biochar, Dorn Beattie from Swordfish Energy Incorporated, Ranah Chavoshi from PhyCo Technologies, Annie Dahan from Seacork Studio Inc, and Omid Moradtalab from Tesla Robotics.

Pitchfest 2024 is an initiative of COAST, sponsored and facilitated by Spring. COAST, a leading platform for fostering innovation and collaboration, hosted Pitchfest as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting emerging talent and driving forward-thinking initiatives in the Blue Economy.

The judging panel included Justin Manley, Marine Technology Society President, Burak Evren, Alacrity Canada's Vice President of Impact and Sustainability, Graham Day, Spring Impact Capital's Managing Partner, Brendan Koops, Ocean Wise Business Development Specialist - Plastics Initiative and Davina MacPhail, Spring Activator's Director of Partnerships.

After careful deliberation by the judges, Annie Dahan of Seacork Studios Inc., emerged victorious with her groundbreaking concept of biodegradable acoustic panels made from seaweed, the idea is aimed at reshaping our connection to materials and their sources. Their innovative approach and dedication to pushing the boundaries of marine innovation truly set the startup apart from the competition.

"I am thrilled to be named the first ever winner of COAST Pitchfest 2024. At Seacork Studios, we are focused on developing biodegradable acoustic panels sourced from local seaweed, redefining our relationship to materials and their origins. We have recently filed patents for our innovative acoustic attenuating seaweed material and are now at the pilot project stage, we plan to use the prize to grow our production process to supply our pilot projects." says Annie Dahan, Company Founder. "Our mission at Seacork Studio is two fold. First, is to replace environmentally degrading acoustic panels with locally sourced, biodegradable Seacork acoustic panels. Second, is to rethink our approach to material development by prioritizing the life of the natural resource in its ecosystem as a greater value than that of the final product made from it."

"We are thrilled to name Seacork Studio as the winner of the 2024 Pitchfest," said Jason Goldsworthy, Executive Director at COAST. "Annie's innovative concept of crafting acoustic panels from seaweed is an inspiring vision, and we have no doubt that their winning idea will make a significant impact in the

industry."

In addition to recognizing the winner, COAST would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all participants, and judges, as well as our partner sponsor Spring, who contributed to the success of this year's event.

"We are thrilled to support the fantastic team at COAST on this initiative." said Graham Day, Partner at Spring Impact Capital. "Building an ecosystem of founders, investors, partners and government is fundamental to supporting inclusive innovation. We saw some novel and impactful ideas in the pitch fest which speaks to how much talent there is in British Columbia. Annie of Seacork Studios stood out as a founder with deep product knowledge and clear steps to iterate its design. I'm excited to see her and the other founders take their ideas forward."

For more information about COAST and its initiatives, please visit canadacoast.ca, and for more information about the Spring, please visit www.spring.is.

To learn more about the innovative work of Seacork Studios, please visit www.seacorkstudio.com

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ABOUT COAST:

COAST is an initiative of South Island Prosperity Partnership, launched in 2021 in response to industry's call to create B.C.'s world-class ocean and marine innovation to tap into the enormous economic potential of the global sustainable blue economy.

ABOUT SPRING:

A certified B Corporation®, Spring is a global incubator, accelerator, and advisory firm that empowers entrepreneurs, investors, and entrepreneurial ecosystem builders to change the world through innovation. With its advisory services, it has helped over 70 different incubators, accelerators, foundations, and governments across 5 continents enhance their capacity to maximize impact both in their local communities and globally. Through its impact programs, Spring has helped more than 2700+ entrepreneurs, catalyzed over \$47.5M in funding and provided training support for over 950+ impact investors on 5 continents. More information available at www.spring.is.