



OCEANS ECONOMY

Conference & Expo 2026



Blue Economy. Secure Waters. Shared Prosperity.

Event Overview



Oceans Economy Conference & Expo 2026 28–29 May 2026 | Cape Town, South Africa

- The Oceans Economy Conference & Expo 2026 is Southern Africa’s premier maritime industry platform, convening senior leaders from government, state-owned companies, the private sector, defence, logistics, tourism, fisheries, offshore energy and maritime services to explore the strategic growth of South Africa’s oceans economy.
- Hosted over two days in Cape Town, the event combines a high-level conference with a multi-sector exhibition, showcasing the technologies, services, innovations and partnerships shaping the future of the maritime industry.
- Delegates will engage on policy, infrastructure development, sustainability, security, regional trade, skills growth and economic opportunity across both the commercial maritime and defence maritime environments.
- Designed as a catalyst for growth, investment and collaboration, the Oceans Economy Conference & Expo provides world-class insights, knowledge-sharing and business development opportunities for organisations operating within — or entering — the blue economy value chain.

Event Theme



Blue Economy. Secure Waters. Shared Prosperity.

- The Oceans Economy Conference & Expo positions South Africa's maritime sector as a powerful engine for economic growth - strengthened by security, collaboration and innovation.
- The two-day programme explores how commercial maritime development, sustainable ocean resource management, naval readiness and regional security all work together to protect trade, unlock investment and build a resilient blue economy.
- By uniting industry, government, defence and international partners, the conference promotes safe seas, thriving industries and long-term prosperity for coastal communities and the nation.



Conference Objectives



- To build on the success of previous editions of the **Oceans Economy Conference** and formally establish the event in Cape Town - ensuring its continued growth, impact and long-term sustainability.
- To bring together senior leaders from across the maritime, naval, commercial, tourism, energy, logistics and ocean-based sectors to share insights, strategies and innovations shaping the Oceans Economy.
- To unpack national and regional policy priorities, industry trends and investment opportunities contributing to sustainable economic growth within the blue economy.
- To strengthen collaboration between government, industry, regulators, academia and international partners to drive coordinated sector development.
- To showcase leading technologies, solutions and capabilities across the maritime value chain through the Expo platform.
- To create a pipeline of opportunity for skills development, job creation and enterprise participation — particularly for youth and emerging suppliers.
- To promote responsible oceans stewardship, environmental sustainability and safe maritime operations.
- To position South Africa as a competitive, innovative and collaborative player in the global blue economy.



Audience



The audience will comprise 500 senior executives representing the full breadth of the maritime ecosystem, including

- Commercial maritime companies
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
- South African and International Navies
- Defence maritime industry
- Shipping logistics
- Fishing industry
- Maritime tourism
- Oil and gas industry
- Maritime support services
- Shipbuilding: development, design and construction
- Maintenance, repairs and overhaul services
- Technical services
- Mechanical and engineering companies
- Operating systems and technology
- Industry regulators
- Defence Industry
- Offshore operations
- Department of Defence
- Maritime tourism companies

Strategic Partners



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SAIMI
SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME INSTITUTE



Venue – Cape Town, SA



Notable Speakers



Dion George – Minister of the
Environment, Forestry & Fisheries



Adm Monde Lobese – Chief of South
African Navy



Dr Thobekile Gamede – Acting
Secretary of Defence



Adv Phyllis Difeto – Managing Executive,
Transnet National Ports Authority



Programme Format – Day 1



TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
08:00 - 09:00	Registration & Networking Breakfast	Delegate arrival, exhibition networking and refreshments
09:00 - 09:15	Opening Welcome & Conference Overview	Host welcome and programme briefing
09:15 - 09:45	Opening Keynote Address	Building a Secure and Competitive Oceans Economy for South Africa
09:45 - 10:30	Plenary Panel	Maritime Trade, National Security and Economic Competitiveness
10:30 - 11:00	Tea & Networking Break	Exhibition engagement
11:00 - 12:00	Session 1	Port, Shipping & Logistics Efficiency — Securing Supply Chains and Trade Corridors
12:00 - 13:00	Session 2	Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture — Protecting Marine Resources from Illegal Exploitation
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch & Networking	Exhibition floor open
14:00 - 15:00	Session 3	Oil, Gas & Offshore Energy — Operational Safety, Compliance & Security Risk Management
15:00 - 16:00	Session 4	Shipbuilding & Maintenance — Strengthening Industrial Capability for National Readiness
16:00 - 17:00	Session 5	Maritime Tourism & Cruise Development — Safe, Secure and Sustainable Growth
17:30 - 19:30	Cocktail Networking Function	Networking reception for all delegates, partners & guests

Programme Format – Day 2



TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
08:30 – 09:00	Morning Coffee & Networking	Exhibition & networking
09:00 – 09:10	Opening Remarks	Setting the strategic security context
09:10 – 09:45	Keynote Address	Safeguarding the Southern African Maritime Domain
09:45 – 10:30	Plenary Panel	Joint Maritime Security, Defence & Law Enforcement Collaboration
10:30 – 11:00	Tea & Networking Break	Exhibition engagement
11:00 – 11:45	Session 1	Naval Capability, Technology & Maritime Domain Awareness
11:45 – 12:30	Session 2	Protecting Trade Routes, Fisheries & Offshore Critical Infrastructure
12:30 – 13:00	Closing Session	Strategic Outcomes, Commitments & Forward Collaboration
13:00	Conference Close	Delegates depart

Conference Topics



- Port & shipping efficiency — Technology, digitisation and infrastructure modernisation
- Maritime security & defence readiness in Southern African waters
- Sustainable fishing, aquaculture & marine resource protection
- Oil, gas & offshore energy — Safety, compliance and opportunity
- Shipbuilding, maintenance & maritime manufacturing capacity development
- Tourism & cruise development — Re-energising coastal economic activity
- Climate change, coastal protection & marine environmental resilience
- Skills development, youth pathways & workforce transformation in the Blue Economy
- ESG, trade, investment and financing the future maritime economy



Exhibition





PR & Media Coverage



- Creative Space Media (CSM) will secure maximum media visibility through its dedicated PR division, ensuring strong pre-event and post-event coverage as well as on-site media attendance.
- Sponsors and partners will receive extensive exposure through secured interviews and editorial placements to amplify their brands.
- Media engagement will focus on driving awareness, credibility and national reach for the conference and its outcomes.
- Key media partners will include Maritime Review Africa as well as Defence Web.

A screenshot of a news article from Defence Web. The article is titled "SA Navy Admiral highlights need for funding and collaboration" and is dated 31st May 2024. The author is Dean Wingen. The article features a photo of Rear Admiral David Mkhonto speaking at a podium. The text discusses the need for funding and collaboration in the maritime sector, emphasizing the relationship between security and economic development. The article is categorized under "SEA" and "SA DEFENCE".

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SEA

SA Navy Admiral highlights need for funding and collaboration

Dean Wingen · 31st May 2024

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Rear Admiral David Mkhonto, Chief Director of Maritime Strategy for the South African Navy, addressed the Oceans Economy Conference and Expo in Cape Town last week with a powerful call to action, urging South Africa to harness its maritime resources responsibly and strategically to foster economic growth and national security.

The conference provided a platform to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by South Africa's ocean economy. Mkhonto emphasized the direct relationship between security and economic development, stating: "An absence of security gives rise to low economic development, weak state institutions and an incapable state. The converse also holds: stability and security create conditions conducive to economic development, prosperity and the well-being of the people."

Despite the vast economic potential of South Africa's marine areas, the Admiral acknowledged the existing governance gaps and security issues, particularly in the fishing sector. He emphasized the need for effective management and stronger national presence to address these marine challenges.

Partnership Opportunities



Sponsor & Exhibitor Benefits



PROFILE YOUR BUSINESS

Position your company as a leader in the maritime industry's technologies and solutions industry. Profile and exhibit your technologies, products, services and projects.



LARGE AUDIENCE EXPOSURE

Reach thousands of industry professionals, government officials, key decision-makers, OEMs suppliers and other stakeholders.



BRAND EXPOSURE

Align your brand to a high-profile, high-impact local conference and exhibition platform and event marketing campaign.



Exhibitor Benefits

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Access a unique network of supply and demand. Make new contacts and build relationships with key decision makers attending the Oceans Economy Conference & Expo



KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Gain insights into new technologies and innovations and gain first-hand insights into new products and launches.



IMPROVE YOUR BOTTOM LINE

Gain access to top maritime business leaders, policy and decision makers to secure new business and improve your bottom line!



Gold Sponsorship for R400,000



The Gold sponsorship for this event is R400,000 and includes the following benefits (excluding 15% VAT)

- Primary ownership, brand association, and exclusive naming rights to the event
- Opening address & additional keynote speaking slot on the conference programme
- Seat on a panel discussion on the conference programme
- Input and review of the conference programme, topics and speakers
- Insertion of company collateral into the delegate gift bag
- Primary branding on all event invitations and communications
- Primary branding and company profile on the event website and digital platforms
- Primary branding on all event collateral (name tags, banners, screens programmes etc.), at the conference, exhibition & cocktail function
- Primary branding and company logo included on sponsor loop video
- Primary branding at registration and communal areas
- Primary branding on post-event emails
- Company banners and branding interspersed throughout all event venues (supplied by the client)
- Corporate video to be played at strategic moments during the event (video supplied by client)
- 10 x VIP seats to attend the conference and cocktail function
- 6m x 3m exhibition stand
- 4 x staff members at the exhibition stand
- Video interview of company executive during the course of the event
- Delegate statistics post event
- Dedicated and focused media and PR related to the event as Gold Sponsor
- Comprehensive post-event ROI document (available 6 weeks post event)

Silver Sponsorship for R220,000



The Silver sponsorship for this event is R220,000 and includes the following benefits (excluding 15% VAT)

- Keynote speaking slot on the conference programme
- Insertion of company collateral into the delegate gift bag
- Secondary branding on all event collateral (name tags, banners, screens programmes etc.), at the conference, exhibition & cocktail function
- Secondary branding on all event invitations and communications
- Secondary branding and company profile on the event website and digital platforms
- Secondary branding at registration and communal areas
- Secondary branding and company logo included on sponsor loop video
- Secondary branding on post-event emails
- Company banners and branding interspersed throughout all event venues (supplied by the client)
- Corporate video to be played at strategic moments during the event (video supplied by client)
- 5 x VIP seats to attend the conference and cocktail functions
- 3m x 3m exhibition stand
- 2 x staff members at the exhibition stand
- Video interview of company executive during the course of the event
- Dedicated and focused media and PR related to the event as Silver Sponsor
- Comprehensive post-event ROI document (available 6 weeks post event)

Bronze Sponsorship for R150,000



The Bronze sponsorship for this event is R150,000 and includes the following benefits (excluding 15% VAT)

- Seat on a panel discussion on the conference programme
- Insertion of company collateral into the delegate gift bag
- Tertiary branding on all event collateral (name tags, banners, screens programmes etc.), at the conference, exhibition & cocktail function
- Tertiary branding on all event invitations and communications
- Tertiary branding and company profile on the event website and digital platforms
- Tertiary branding at registration and communal areas
- Tertiary branding and company logo included on sponsor loop video
- Company banners and branding interspersed throughout all event venues (supplied by the client)
- Corporate video to be played once during the event (video supplied by client)
- Tertiary branding on post-event emails
- 2 x VIP seats to attend the conference and cocktail function
- 3m x 3m exhibition stand
- 2 x staff members at the exhibition stand
- Video interview of company executive during the course of the event
- Dedicated and focused media and PR related to the event as Bronze Sponsor
- Comprehensive post-event ROI document (available 6 weeks post event)

SPONSORSHIP MATRIX

Category	Gold Sponsor for R400,000	Silver Sponsor for R220,000	Bronze Sponsor for R150,000
Event Ownership & Status	Exclusive naming rights & primary ownership	—	—
Speaking Opportunities	Opening address + keynote	Keynote	—
Panel Participation	✓	—	✓
Programme Input	✓	—	—
Branding Level & Delegate Touch Points	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
*Invitations & communications	✓	✓	✓
*Website & digital platforms (profile)	✓	✓	✓
*Event collateral & signage	✓	✓	✓
*Registration & communal areas	✓	✓	✓
*Sponsor loop video	✓	✓	✓
*Post-event emails	✓	✓	✓
* Venue- branding at the venue (client supplied banners)	✓	✓	✓
*Corporate video playback	Multiple	Multiple	Once
Insertion of company collateral into the delegate gift bag	✓	✓	✓
VIP seats (conference & cocktail)	10	5	2
Exhibitor staff passes	4	2	2
Exhibition Stand Included	6m x 3m	3m x 3m	3m x 3m
Executive video interview at the event	✓	✓	✓
Delegate statistics post event	✓	—	—
Media & PR event campaign	Dedicated Gold coverage	Dedicated Silver coverage	Dedicated Bronze coverage
Post-Event ROI Report	✓	✓	✓

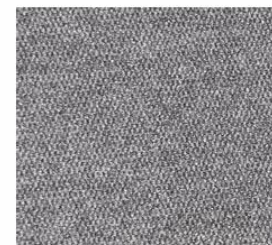
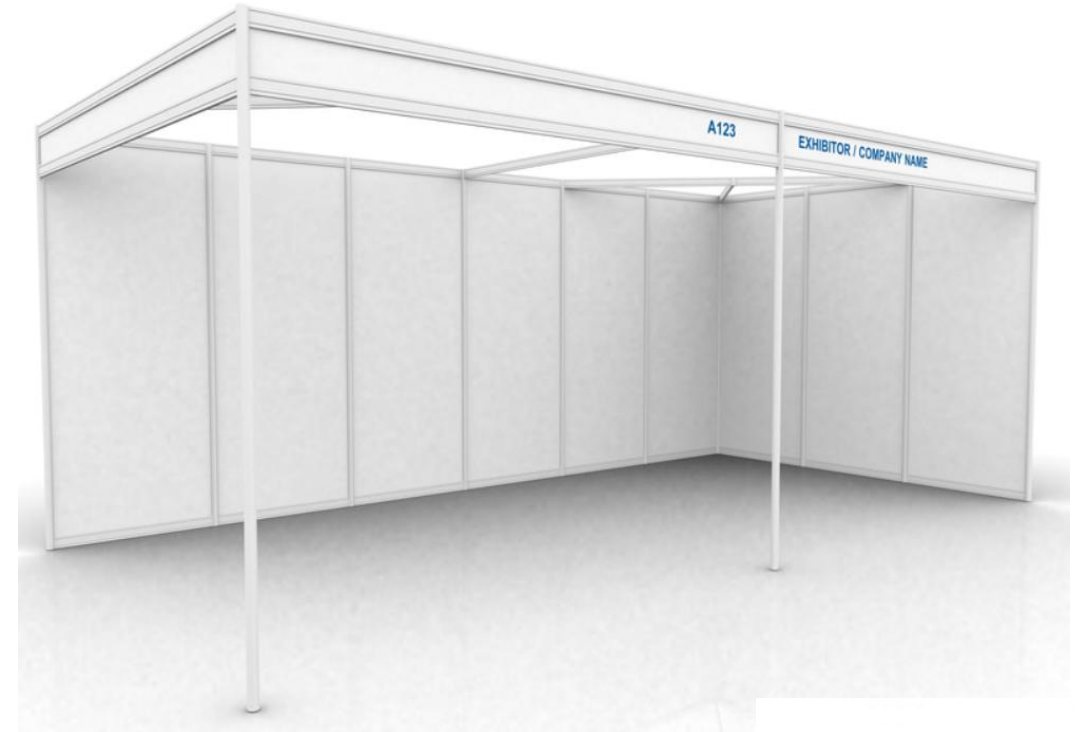
Exhibition (6m x 3m)



The 6m x 3m exhibition stand is R54,000 (excluding 15% VAT)

- White shell scheme structure 6m x 3m
- White Fascia board with company name in black print
- Carpet flooring (choose from charcoal, grey, blue red, green)
- DB board and two plug point
- 6 x café chairs
- 2 x café table
- 4 x exhibitor passes with access to conference sessions and cocktail function

6 x 3 m (2 walls – corner stand, alternatively 3 walls)

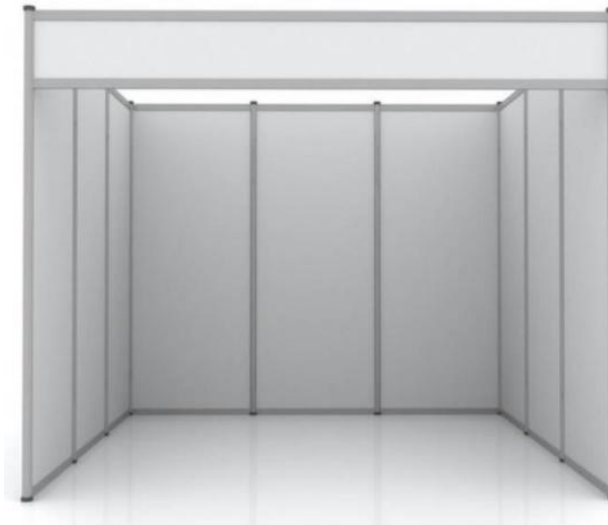


Exhibition (3m x 3m)

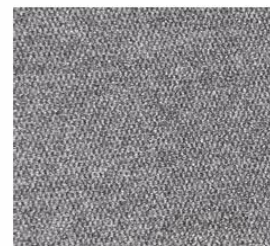
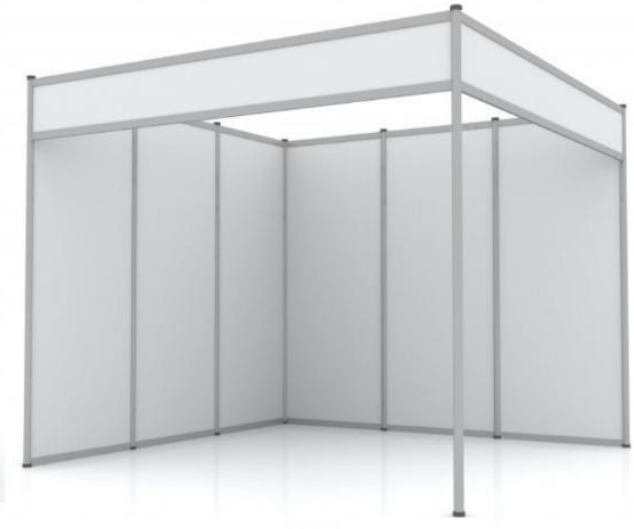
The 3m x 3m exhibition stand is R38,000 (excluding 15% VAT)

- White shell scheme structure 3m x 3m
- White Fascia board with company name in black print
- Carpet flooring (choose from charcoal, grey, blue red, green)
- DB board and a plug point
- 3 x café chairs
- 1 x café table
- 2 x exhibitor passes with access to conference sessions and cocktail function

3 x 3 m (3 walls)



3 x 3 m (2 walls – corner stand)





Thank you for your valuable partnership!



For more information, please contact email or phone Devon Eales

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