

Event Manual



ITALY - BELGIUM **INDUSTRIAL DAY**

22.09.2026 | OSTEND - BELGIUM

BEYOND THE SURFACE
 **THE FUTURE** 
OF UNDERWATER

OVERVIEW

CONCEPT

An exclusive Italy-Belgium industrial matchmaking mission around underwater technologies, maritime security and dual-use innovation. High-quality curated B2B meetings between Italian companies and carefully selected Belgian counterparts.

ELEMENT	INFORMATION
Date	22 September 2026
Location	Blue Cluster / Bluebridge, Ostend – Wetenschapspark 1, 8400, Oostende
Event title	Italy-Belgium Industrial Day 2026 - Beyond The Surface: The Future of Underwater
Language	English
Italian organisers	Italian Trade Agency, with the support of the Embassy of Italy in Brussels
Belgian-side partners in preparation	Blue Cluster, Agoria-BSDI, FIT, hub.Brussels
Objectives	Promote industrial cooperation and technological integration between Italy and Belgium in maritime security and the blue economy.
Format	Matchmaking, informal networking and site-visit.
Internal objective	Qualitative matchmaking and a starting point for a longer Belgium-Italy cooperation trajectory, not a one-off networking event.

PARKING @BLUEBRIDGE

When entering the Ostend Science Park (OSP) site (with the Bluebridge building on your right-hand side), please turn left at the "Parking" sign. (The parking area in front of the Bluebridge building is reserved for residents only.)

Continue along this road until you see the visitor parking area on your right, starting with **OSP1** and **OSP2**. When leaving the parking area, please exit by turning right (one-way traffic system).

An illustration is provided below for clarification:



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

TOPICS

- Underwater defence and technologies
- Dual-use and unmanned systems
- Critical Maritime Infrastructure Protection (CMIP)
- Autonomous vessels, robotics and mechatronics
- Resilient maritime communication networks
- Cybersecurity for maritime and defence applications
- Offshore monitoring, survey and seabed intelligence
- Energy storage and resilient power solutions for remote maritime infrastructure
- Naval electronics, propulsion and embedded control systems.

DAY OVERVIEW

*Water will be available during the matchmaking session.

**Closed session

Time	Block	Notes
09:30 - 09:50	Registration & welcome coffee	Arrival and registration @BlueBridge
10:00 - 11:10	Plenary session	Welcome address & keynotes @Mercator 1 & 2
11:15 - 14:30	Matchmaking* / intitutional session**	B2B matchmaking @Blue Plaza & Mercator 3
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch available	During matchmaking
13:30 - 14:30	Coffee available	During matchmaking
14:30 - 15:00	Wrap-up, summary & transfer to VLIZ	Overview of matchmaking / transfer by bus
15:00 - 15:45	Visit @VLIZ	Guided tour: Marine Robotics Centre @VLIZ: Buskruitstraat / Slipwaykaai, Ostend, Belgium
16:00	End of day	Transfer back to Brussels

PLENARY SESSION 10:00 - 11:10

Time	Block	Notes
10:00	Welcome address	Piet Opstaele: Blue Cluster CEO
10:05	Welcome address	John Crombez: mayor of Ostend
10:10	Welcome address	Mme H.E. Federica Favi: Ambassador of Italy for the Kingdom of Belgium
10:15	Welcome address	Tindaro Paganini: director for the Benelux of the Italian Trade Agency
10:20	Welcome address	Sergio Attilio Jesi: Director for EU Programs of AIAD
10:25	Welcome address	FIT, Agoria-BSDI & hub.Brussels
10:30	Group Picture	
10:30	Presentation	Rear Admiral Giulio Marino Cappelletti: director of the Operational Structure of the Italian National Underwater Hub
10:45	Presentation	Rear Admiral Carl Gillis Head of International Relations of the Belgian Navy with Andrea Arlotta & Sonia Papili
11:10	End of plenary session	Start of matchmaking

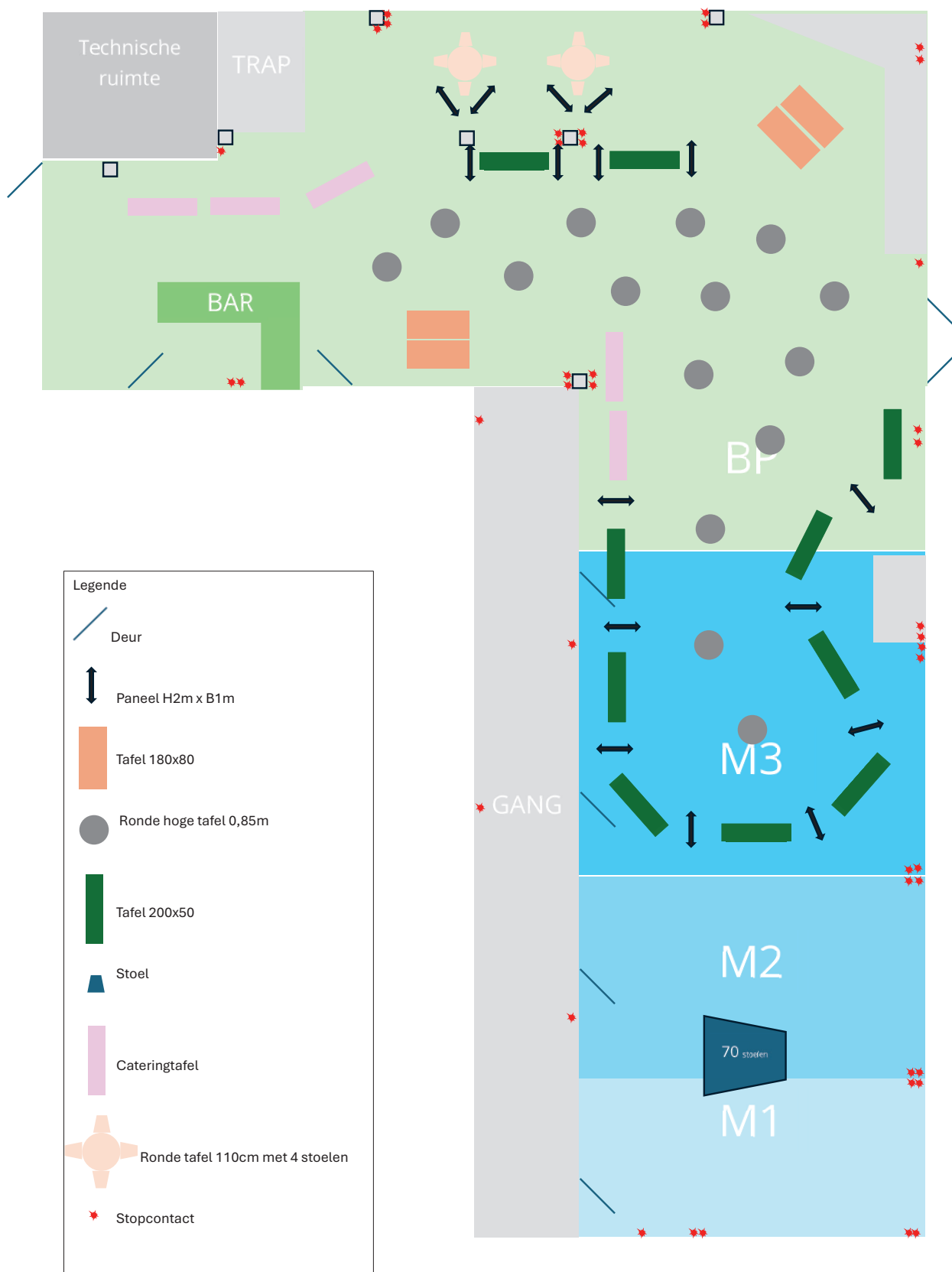
INSTITUTIONAL SESSION 11:40 - 12:40

CLOSED SESSION

PRESENT: Piet Opstaele & Frank Gielen (Blue Cluster), rear admiral Carl Gillis, rear admiral Giulio Marino Cappelletti, ELT, Fincantieri, Sergio Jesi (AIAD), Laurent Catoire (ULB) Nicolas Bas (AGORIA-BSDI), Bart Matheï & Michel Hofman (FIT), Lorenzo Van Elsen (hub.Brussels)

Time	Block	Notes
11:40	Introduction by Blue Cluster	Piet Opstaele: Blue Cluster CEO & Moderator
11:50	cross-sector dynamic exchange	Rear admiral Carl Gillis
12:00	cross-sector dynamic exchange	Rear Admiral Giulio Marino Cappelletti
12:10	cross-sector dynamic exchange	Fincantieri
12:20	cross-sector dynamic exchange	ELT
12:30	cross-sector dynamic exchange	AIAD
12:40	End of institutional session	

FLOOR PLAN MATCHMAKING, CATERING & PLENARY



COMPANY NOTES

ITALY

INTERMARINE S.P.A.

<https://www.intermarine.it>

- Mine Countermeasure Vessels (MCMV)
- Composite Shipbuilding (FRP)
- Shock-Resistant Hull Technology
- Low Acoustic & Magnetic Signature
- Underwater Drones and Unmanned Systems
- Maritime Defence
- Patrol Vessels
- Logistics Support & Training

AREA OF INTEREST

Platforms and underwater vehicles, including underwater drones.

EUROCONTROL S.P.A.

<https://www.eurocontrol-spa.com>

- Electromechanical Systems
- Optronics & Defence Electronics
- Weapon and Fire Control Systems
- Electric Drives
- Power Conversion
- Electric Propulsion
- Submarines and Naval Vessels
- Underwater Transmission & Positioning
- Simulators and Training Systems

AREA OF INTEREST

Underwater transmission and positioning systems; platforms and underwater vehicles

ELT GROUP

(ELETTRONICA S.P.A.)

<https://www.eltgroup.net>

- Electronic Defence Systems
- Seabed Monitoring
- Critical Underwater Infrastructure Protection
- Cybersecurity
- Secure Communications
- Physical Security
- Maritime Security
- Offshore & North Sea Infrastructure

AREA OF INTEREST

Seabed monitoring; physical, cyber and communication protection of critical underwater infrastructure

SAIPEM S.P.A.

<https://www.saipem.com>

- Offshore Engineering
- Subsea Infrastructure
- Pipeline Installation
- Underwater Construction
- Inspection, Maintenance & Repair
- Underwater Robotics
- Offshore Operations
- Subsea Technology

AREA OF INTEREST

Profile to be further completed based on company materials

STAM S.R.L.

<https://www.stamtech.com>

- Maritime Sensors
- Acoustic Systems
- Underwater Detection
- R&D Partnerships
- Innovation Collaboration
- Research Institutions
- Maritime Monitoring

AREA OF INTEREST

Maritime sensing and acoustics

DUMAREY AUTOMOTIVE ITALIA S.P.A.

<https://www.dumarey.com>

- Powertrain Systems
- Electronic Control Units (ECUs)
- Energy Storage (Batteries & Flywheels)
- Hydrogen Engines
- Fuel Cell Systems
- Embedded Software
- Functional Safety
- Cybersecurity
- Predictive Maintenance

AREA OF INTEREST

Powertrain systems; predictive maintenance

SAR ELECTRONICS S.R.L.

<https://www.sar-electronics.it>

- Electronics Manufacturing
- PCB Assembly
- Testing and Validation Services
- EMS Provider
- Electronic Subsystems
- Supply Chain Partner
- Manufacturing Capacity for System Integrators

AREA OF INTEREST

Assembly and testing of electronic products and printed circuit boards

RINA CONSULTING

<https://www.rina.org>

- Engineering & Consultancy
- Cybersecurity
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Naval Systems Support
- Submarine Programmes
- Integrated Logistics Support (ILS)
- Testing, Inspection & Certification
- Materials Engineering
- Defence and Maritime Expertise

AREA OF INTEREST

Cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection; engineering and consultancy services

OFFICINE MACCAFERRI ITALIA S.R.L.

<https://www.maccaferri.com>

- Coastal Protection
- Seabed Stabilisation
- Subsea Cable Protection
- Pipeline Protection
- Offshore Wind Foundations
- Port Infrastructure
- Erosion Control
- Geotechnical Solutions
- Hydraulic Engineering Works

AREA OF INTEREST

Coastal protection, seabed stabilisation and protection of subsea infrastructure

BYLOGIX

<https://www.maccaferri.com>

- Autonomous systems & AI
- Electric power distribution systems
- Actuator control units
- Functional safety & cybersecurity
- Sensor fusion & software integration
- Collision avoidance systems
- Drone swarming technologies
- Naval & defence electronics

AREA OF INTEREST

Autonomous underwater systems, AI-enabled maritime operations, sensor fusion, collision avoidance, drone swarming.

FINCANTIERI

<https://www.fincantieri.com/>

- Shipbuilding & naval engineering
- Naval and defence vessels
- Underwater systems & technologies
- Autonomous maritime systems
- Maritime robotics & unmanned platforms
- Maritime cybersecurity
- Smart ship technologies & digitalisation
- Systems integration & lifecycle support

AREA OF INTEREST

Naval and underwater systems, autonomous maritime technologies, advanced shipbuilding, offshore platforms, and international cooperation in defence and maritime innovation.

COMPANY NOTES

BELGIUM

DEME

<https://www.deme-group.com>

- Offshore energy
- Subsea engineering
- Marine infrastructure
- Dredging & reclamation
- Offshore wind
- Marine robotics
- Survey & inspection
- Environmental solutions
- Vessel operations

AREA OF INTEREST

Offshore and subsea infrastructure; offshore wind and marine operations.

EXAIL

<https://www.exail.com>

- Autonomous maritime systems
- Uncrewed surface vessels (USV)
- Autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV)
- Navigation systems
- Positioning technologies
- Hydrography
- Mine countermeasure solutions
- Subsea robotics
- Maritime defence

AREA OF INTEREST

Autonomous underwater and surface systems; navigation and subsea technologies.

MULTI.ENGINEERING

<https://multi.engineering>

- Engineering consultancy
- Offshore engineering
- Industrial design
- Project management
- Energy infrastructure
- Marine engineering
- Technical studies
- Asset integrity
- Engineering support services

AREA OF INTEREST

Engineering and technical consultancy for marine, offshore and industrial projects.

JERA NEX BP

<https://www.jnbp.com/>

- Offshore wind development
- Renewable energy
- Offshore asset management
- Energy transition
- Project development
- Clean energy investments
- International partnerships
- North Sea projects

AREA OF INTEREST

Offshore renewable energy development and strategic energy partnerships.

PORT OF ANTWERP-BRUGES

<https://www.portofantwerpbruges.com/en>

- Port infrastructure
- Maritime logistics
- Energy transition
- Hydrogen ecosystem
- Digital port solutions
- Critical infrastructure
- Supply chain resilience
- Offshore industry supportIndustrial clusters

AREA OF INTEREST

Port infrastructure, energy transition and maritime industrial ecosystems.

GEOXYZ

<https://www.geoxyz.eu/en>

- Hydrographic Survey
- Geophysical Survey
- Seabed Mapping
- Subsea Inspection
- Marine Data Acquisition
- Offshore Wind Support
- Remote Sensing
- Marine Geoscience
- Asset Integrity Monitoring
- Survey Vessels & ROV Services

AREA OF INTEREST

Seabed mapping, marine survey and subsea inspection services for offshore and maritime infrastructure

INTERSOFT ELECTRONICS

<https://intersoft-electronics.com/>

- Radar systems
- Air traffic management
- Surveillance technologie
- Data processin
- Sensor integratio
- Safety-critical system
- Software developmen
- Mission-critical infrastructure

AREA OF INTEREST

Advanced radar, surveillance and sensor technologies for critical operations.

OCTAVE

<https://octave.com/>

- Mission-critical software for actionable intelligence
- Situational Awareness Platforms
- Digital Twin Technology
- Sensor Fusion
- Command & Control Visualisation
- Maritime Domain Awareness
- Real-Time Data Integration
- Decision Support Systems
- Critical Infrastructure Monitoring
- Defence & Security Applications"

AREA OF INTEREST

Geospatial intelligence, maritime situational awareness and real-time decision support solutions.

MATCHMAKING PREPOSITIONS

This is merely a suggestion. We encourage you to meet with as many participants as possible.

1. UNDERWATER ROBOTICS & AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

Italian Organisation	Belgian Organisation	Notes
Intermarine	Exail	Strong complementarity in underwater vehicles, autonomous maritime platforms and naval systems. Potential for joint demonstrators, underwater drone integration and collaborative R&D initiatives.
Eurocontrol	Exail	Shared interests in underwater positioning, navigation, control systems and autonomous vehicle operations. Opportunities for technology integration and future European projects.
Bylogix	Exail	Strong complementarity in autonomous maritime systems, navigation, sensor fusion and underwater vehicle operations. Potential collaboration on AI-enabled autonomy, collision avoidance and multi-platform integration.
Fincantieri	Exail	Strong complementarity in autonomous maritime systems, underwater robotics, unmanned platforms and naval applications. Potential for joint demonstrators, systems integration and future European defence and maritime innovation projects.

2. CRITICAL MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Italian Organisation	Belgian Organisation	Notes
ELT Group	Octave	Combination of seabed monitoring, secure communications and geospatial intelligence for the protection of critical maritime infrastructure.
ELT Group	Intersoft Electronics	Strong overlap in surveillance, sensor integration and monitoring solutions for critical infrastructure protection.
ELT Group	Port of Antwerp-Bruges	Direct relevance for port security, underwater infrastructure monitoring, resilience and operational awareness.
RINA Consulting	Port of Antwerp-Bruges	Strategic exchange on cybersecurity, resilience and risk management for ports and offshore infrastructure.
RINA Consulting	Octave	Combination of AI-driven situational awareness, sensor fusion and real-time decision support for maritime security and critical infrastructure protection.
Bylogix	Intersoft Electronics	Shared expertise in safety-critical systems, sensor integration, surveillance technologies and mission-critical software development.
Fincantieri	Port of Antwerp Bruges	Direct relevance for maritime security, critical infrastructure resilience, smart port technologies and operational awareness in complex maritime environments.
Fincantieri	Octave	Combination of maritime platforms, geospatial intelligence, sensor fusion and situational awareness solutions for the protection of critical maritime infrastructure.

3. OFFSHORE & SUBSEA INFRASTRUCTURE

Italian Organisation	Belgian Organisation	Notes
Saipem	DEME	Two leading international players in offshore engineering and subsea infrastructure. Potential opportunities in joint projects, technology development and offshore operations.
Saipem	Multi.Engineering	Complementary capabilities in engineering design, project management and offshore asset integrity.
Officine Maccaferri	DEME	Shared interests in seabed protection, offshore infrastructure resilience and offshore wind developments.
Officine Maccaferri	GEOxyz	Opportunities around survey activities, monitoring and validation of seabed stabilisation projects and offshore assets.

4. SEABED MAPPING, SURVEY & MONITORING

Italian Organisation	Belgian Organisation	Notes
STAM	GEOxyz	Highly complementary expertise in maritime sensing, acoustics, hydrographic surveys and geophysical seabed intelligence.
STAM	Octave	Combining sensor technologies with geospatial intelligence and situational awareness platforms.
ELT Group	GEOxyz	Combining seabed monitoring solutions with marine survey and subsea inspection capabilities.
Bylogix	GEOxyz	Complementary capabilities in sensor fusion, autonomous operations and marine data acquisition. Potential for intelligent subsea monitoring and autonomous inspection solutions.
Fincantieri	GEOxyz	Complementary expertise in subsea monitoring, seabed intelligence, hydrographic survey capabilities and offshore operations. Potential cooperation around integrated underwater surveillance and maritime infrastructure monitoring solutions.

5. ENERGY SYSTEMS & OFFSHORE ENERGY

Italian Organisation	Belgian Organisation	Notes
Dumarey Automotive Italia	JERA Nex bp	Shared interests in energy storage, hydrogen solutions and future offshore energy systems.
Dumarey Automotive Italia	DEME	Collaboration potential around sustainable propulsion, energy storage and predictive maintenance solutions for offshore assets.
Eurocontrol	JERA Nex bp	Opportunities in electrical propulsion, power conversion and emerging offshore energy applications.

6. ELECTRONICS, MANUFACTURING & SYSTEM INTEGRATION

Italian Organisation	Belgian Organisation	Notes
SAR Electronics	Intersoft Electronics	Synergies in electronics manufacturing, testing, validation and mission-critical systems integration.
SAR Electronics	Octave	Hardware and subsystem integration opportunities for monitoring and situational awareness solutions.
Eurocontrol	Intersoft Electronics	Strong overlap in advanced electronic systems, sensors and operational technology platforms.

6. PRIORITY MATCHMAKING SESSIONS

If meeting slots are limited, Blue Cluster recommends prioritising the following discussions:

Italian Organisation	Belgian Organisation
ELT Group	Octave
ELT Group	Port of Antwerp-Bruges
Saipem	DEME
Intermarine	Exail
Eurocontrol	Exail
STAM	GEOxyz
RINA Consulting	Port of Antwerp-Bruges
Officine Maccaferri	DEME
Dumarey Automotive Italia	JERA Nex bp
SAR Electronics	Intersoft Electronics
Bylogix	GEOxyz
RINA Consulting	Octave
Fincantieri	Exail
Fincantieri	Port of Antwerp Bruges
Fincantieri	Octave

