

Singapore pushes forward with 2020 maritime tech accelerator programmes

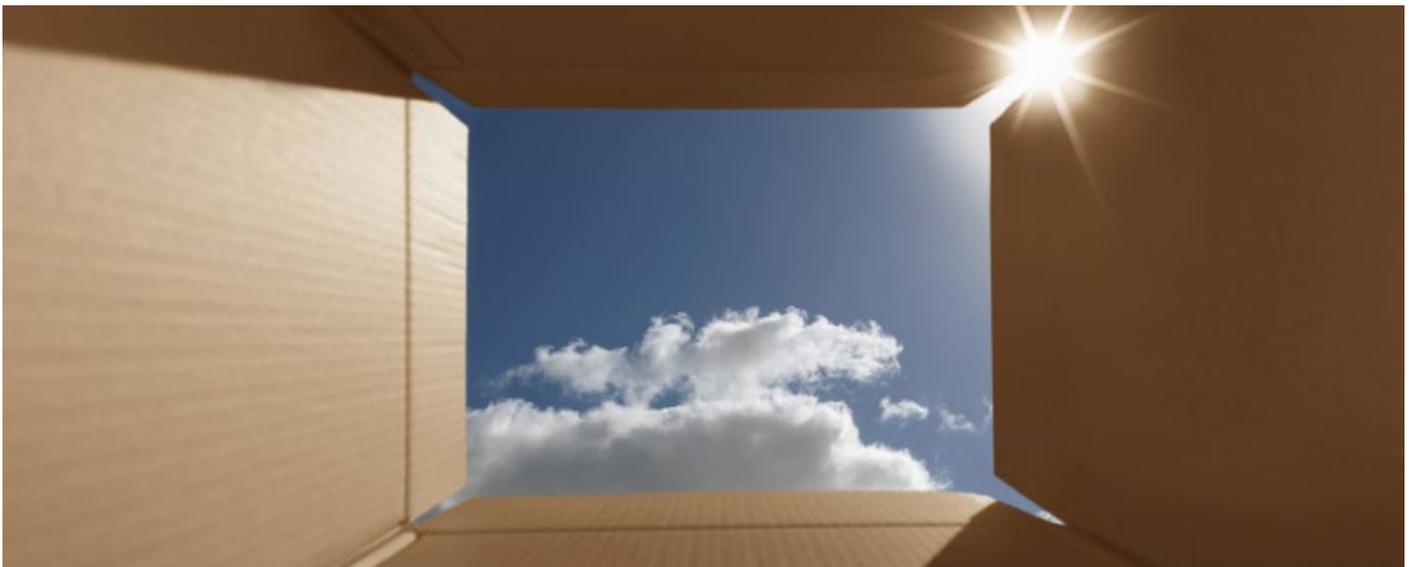
Programmes from Eastern Pacific Techstars and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and NUS Enterprise PIER 71 have both invited new applications for the year. This year's start-ups are encouraged to tackle challenges relating to sustainability, safety and health

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SINGAPORE is pushing forward with its maritime tech accelerator programmes, with the Eastern Pacific-Techstars initiative and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and NUS Enterprise PIER 71's Smart Port Challenge 2020 both inviting new applications, with a particular emphasis on dealing with the coronavirus outbreak.

The accelerator, which was launched last year, is a mentorship-based initiative formed by EPS and Techstars that addresses maritime challenges by investing in start-ups offering potential solutions.

"While applications for year two are open to any start-up with technology applicable to the maritime industry, special attention will be given to those tackling sustainability, safety and health challenges in the wake of the global pandemic," EPS said in a statement.

Reflecting on last year's programme, Gil Ofer, head of Open Innovation at EPS, said: "One learning was that even an exceptionally traditional industry like shipping could embrace new technology with the right ideas and approach."

“Along with our in-house experts, many industry players – shipping companies, cargo owners, port operators, classification societies – participated in feedback and mentor sessions to optimise the cohort’s product offerings. This reaffirmed our belief that the maritime sector is motivated and ready to lead with technology.”

Meanwhile, PIER71 launched the 2020 version of its Smart Port Challenge and invited technology start-ups to submit proposals to create the next wave of maritime innovations.

“As the shipping industry grapples with covid-19, many companies are already repositioning themselves for the new normal,” chief executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Quah Ley Hoon said.

“There are opportunities for greater digitalisation, automation and adoption of new technology. The Smart Port Challenge comes in timely where start-ups join hands with the shipping companies to curate solutions to future-proof ourselves and build a more resilient maritime community; with the added venture capital funding steering more resources towards this important effort.”