



# BLUE ECONOMY COMPASS

Investment Trends Monitor

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# About Blue Economy Compass:

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This guide comprises an analysis of the main global trends in new technologies, startups, investment, and new business models in the Blue Economy, based on data from the Hub Azul Dealroom platform.

## Hub Azul Dealroom:

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### WHAT IS IT?

Hub Azul Portugal, the Innovation Infrastructure Network for the Blue Economy, has launched HUB AZUL DEALROOM - the world's first Blue Economy business platform - on which more than 1,621 startups (with more than 2,792 investment rounds), more than 3,440 investors and up to 195 large companies are already registered. Fórum Oceano is the responsible for "Creating the Hub Azul (H9) business model and management team", a network of innovation infrastructures for the Blue Economy, as part of the European Commission's Recovery and Resilience Plan.

**To find out more, please visit:**











<https://hubazuldealroom.forumoceano.pt/intro>

# INVESTMENT SNAPSHOT

The three lists below showcase data on companies that, during the second trimester of 2024, became subjects of investment rounds, excluding series B and above. The goal is to provide a snapshot of the primary investment trends during that period, including aspects such as company size, maturity, sectors, technologies, etc.

## GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (IN %)

excluding B series and above with investment rounds during the second trimester of 2024











 Captura	 Ocean Environmental Protection and Regeneration	Globally scalable carbon capture to support a sustainable future for the climate using direct ocean capture (DOC).	116% - 54 pax
 VorteX.io	 Water Management	Hydrology monitoring services with compact space-based altimeters.	88% - 32 pax
 TOWT	 Shipping & Ports	TransOceanic Wind Transport is a sailing freight transport company that offers a concrete and alternative solution in the shipping sector.	81% - 38 pax
 Shipzero	 Shipping & Ports	Enabling data-driven emissions reporting and reduction management for logistics activities.	74% - 47 pax
 Kelpi	 Blue Biotechnology	Kelpi is a material innovation company. We replace single-use plastics with premium performance bioplastics that harness the novel properties and environmental benefits of seaweed.	53% - 23 pax

## 1. ANALYSIS:

The highlighted areas in this analysis include oceanic carbon capture using renewable energy, hydrological monitoring, sustainable maritime transport focusing on reducing carbon emissions, digitalization for logistical optimization, and blue biotechnology, with companies developing innovative solutions to replace plastic packaging to combat plastic pollution and climate change. This growth reflects a strong interest in environmental protection technologies, encompassing companies that offer solutions focused on carbon emission reporting based on data management and emission reduction for logistical activities.

# BEST EVALUATION

excluding B series and above with investment rounds during the second trimester of 2024

	 Ocean Environmental Protection and Regeneration	Globally scalable carbon capture to support a sustainable future for the climate using direct ocean capture (DOC).	€87m-130m (Abr 2024)
	 Blue Technology & Ocean Observation	Preventing marine collisions through Artificial Intelligence in a simple intuitive system.	€84m-125m (Mai 2024)
	 Shipping & Ports	An innovative platform for Shipowners, Management companies and Charterers aiming to improve their operational efficiencies.	€59m-88m (Mai 2024)
	 Shipping & Ports	Enabling data-driven emissions reporting and reduction management for logistics activities.	€32m-48m (Jun 2022)
	 Ocean Environmental Protection and Regeneration	Working with manufacturers to turn their unavoidable waste into bioenergy, water for reuse and agricultural inputs.	€29m-44m (Mar 2024)

## 2. ANALYSIS:











This section presents two types of investments: some relatively small ones to allow modest capital entries into early-stage companies (e.g., Harbor Lab and Shipzero) and medium-sized investments in growth-stage companies (e.g., Captura and Orca AI). The main trends include carbon capture solutions, artificial intelligence for maritime collision prevention, and digital platforms for operational and emissions management. These areas are attracting significant capital, reflecting the importance of sustainability and digitalization in the blue economy.

## 3. ANALYSIS:

The largest investment rounds in the second quarter of 2024 highlight a focus on emerging technologies and sustainable solutions for the maritime and logistics sectors. Once again, there is strong interest in carbon capture, artificial intelligence for collision prevention, operational management platforms, and digital solutions for emissions management. Another example of the growing importance of sustainability and digitalization in the blue economy.

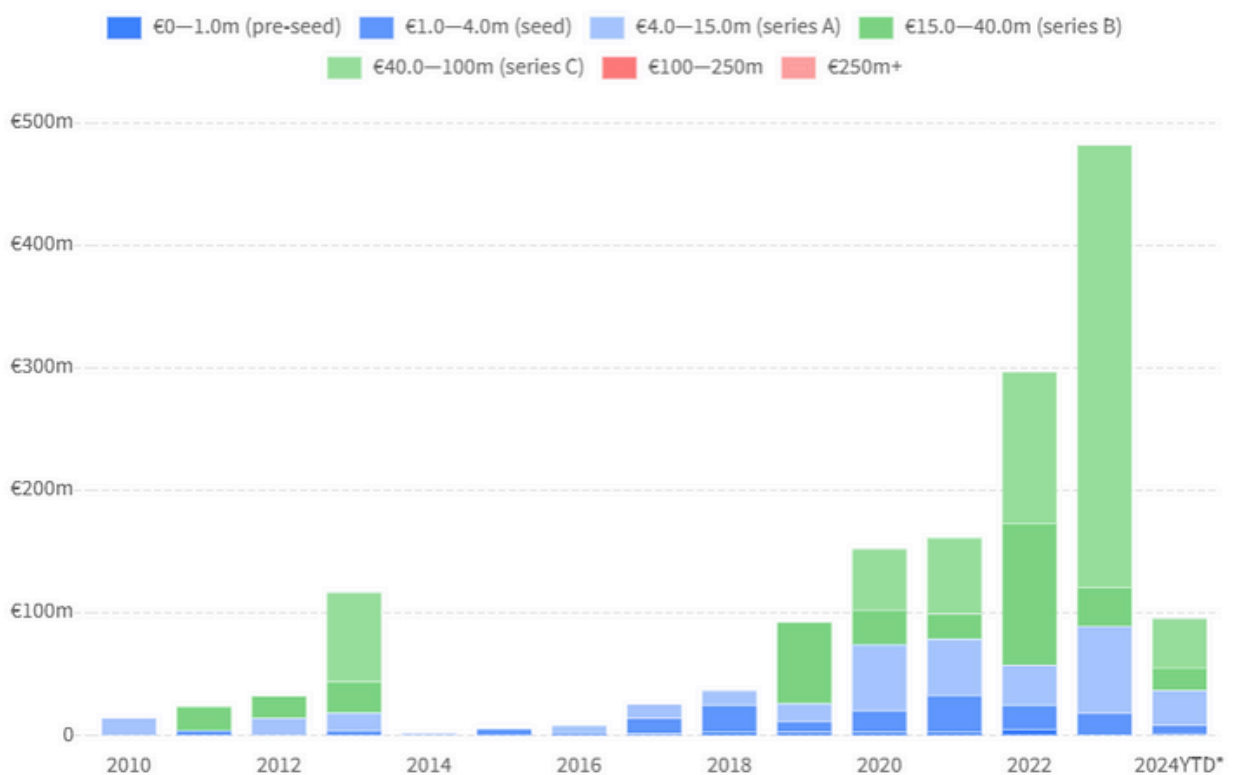
excluding B series and above with investment rounds during the second trimester of 2024

## MAJOR INVESTMENT ROUNDS

	 Ocean Environmental Protection and Regeneration	Globally scalable carbon capture to support a sustainable future for the climate using direct ocean capture (DOC).	\$23.8m series A (Abr 2024)
	 Blue Technology & Ocean Observation	Preventing marine collisions through Artificial Intelligence in a simple intuitive system.	\$23.0m early VC (Mai 2024)
	 Shipping & Ports	An innovative platform for Shipowners, Management companies and Charterers aiming to improve their operational efficiencies.	€14.7m series A (Mai 2024)
	 Shipping & Ports	Enabling data-driven emissions reporting and reduction management for logistics activities.	€8.0m series A (Mai 2024)
	 Shipping & Ports	A platform for shippers and carriers to digitally procure, measure, and optimize contract business.	\$8.0m series A (Mai 2024)

# Sector of the month: Aquaculture

*Aquaculture* includes not only fish and shellfish farming systems, but also emerging technologies with great potential. Some examples include land-based aquaculture systems, automation and water quality monitoring, genetic improvement, sustainable fish nutrition, and tracking technologies that allow verification of fish origin, ensuring transparency and sustainability in the supply chain.



Note: due to reporting lag, the last 12 months are systematically under reporting on rounds especially small rounds. Contact us for corrected estimates.

In a brief analysis of investor trends, there is a general trend of significant increase in interest and investment in aquaculture, especially in recent years. Starting from 2020, there has been a visible steady rise in large-scale operations, with investments in the range of €40-100 million (Series C) becoming more common. Additionally, diversification of investments into more advanced stages (Series A, B, and C) indicates the growing maturity of startups and companies in the aquaculture sector.

**“ LET THE OCEAN’S ENDLESS  
HORIZON REMIND YOU THAT  
POSSIBILITIES ARE BOUNDLESS. ”**