

Dr. Tim Janssen Full bio



Dr. Tim Janssen is the co-founder and CEO of Sofar Ocean. Born and raised in the Netherlands, Tim became fascinated by coast and ocean at a young age. After receiving his Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography from Delft University, he came to California on a National Research Council award. As a researcher at the Naval Postgraduate School and teacher at San Francisco State University, he became increasingly concerned with how a lack of ocean data was holding back innovation in marine forecasting. To address this, Tim co-founded Spoodrift Technologies in 2016, which turned into Sofar in 2019. The mission of the company is to rapidly accelerate the scale of ocean sensing to support better predictability of weather and ocean processes. Sofar does so by designing modular, cost-effective, scalable ocean sensors that are manufactured at scale in the USA. Today, Sofar operates the largest privately-owned network of ocean sensors in the world. Sofar leverages data from these sensors, along with AI/ML, to drive solutions such as fuel savings for maritime shipping, enhanced coastal modeling and safety, and novel marine technologies for blue economy sectors such as offshore energy, aquaculture, and ocean exploration.