



Advancing Innovation in the Mississippi River & Gulf Region

Gulf Blue Connect brings the proven innovation model of Gulf Blue and Gulf Blue Navigator to Vicksburg, anchored at the Mississippi Center for Innovation and Technology (MCITY). It links Mississippi's maritime strengths with inland research and technology hubs, bridging the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River. By fostering collaboration across federal, academic, and industry partners, Gulf Blue Connect strengthens Mississippi's leadership in defense, environmental resilience, and economic growth.

Driving Innovation at Gulf Blue Connect

Mission

Accelerate the development and commercialization of dual-use maritime and river technologies that strengthen security, resilience, and economic growth.

Focus Areas

- River-Gulf Innovation: Linking inland waterways with coastal assets.
- Defense & Security: Supporting DoW, ERDC, and naval priorities.
- Resilience: Advancing monitoring, mapping, and sustainability.
- Entrepreneurship & Workforce: Creating opportunities for startups and students.

Value & Impact

- Builds on MCITY momentum.
- Extends Gulf Blue Navigator inland.
- Positions Mississippi as a leader in research translation.

16 MILLION+
FUELING RESEARCH & INDUSTRY GROWTH

Translational Research & Commercialization Partnerships
Driving innovation through research investment, commercialization programs, and industry collaboration.

84 INNOVATION ENGAGEMENTS

Connecting researchers, industry, and community partners

28 PATENTS FILED

Protecting Mississippi's Intellectual Property

16 COHORT STARTUPS

Supporting Innovation Through Gulf Blue and ARTISAN Cohorts

4 RESEARCH STARTUPS

Driving Mississippi's Startup & Innovation Ecosystem

INNOVATION COLLABORATION IMPACT

Driving Innovation at Gulf Blue Connect

Gulf Blue Connect builds on Mississippi's coastal and river assets to create solutions with national relevance. By linking researchers, industry, and federal partners, it helps move technologies from discovery to deployment.

Led by USM with:

- ERDC
- Mississippi Research Consortium
- Federal agencies, industry, & startups



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
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OFFICE OF
INNOVATION
MANAGEMENT
concept to career



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CONSORTIUM
JSU • MSU • UM • USM

COLLABORATIVE ACOUSTIC DEMONSTRATION ON THE GULF COAST



Strengthening Coastal and Resilient Maritime Solutions

USM partnered with the University of Mississippi, Hyperion Technology Group, BLUEiQ, and SeaTrac to advance undersea sensing and autonomous vessel technologies. The demonstration, held at USM's Gulf & Ship Island Building and Marine Research Center, showcased innovations with applications for national defense, commercial shipping, and coastal resilience.

By integrating acoustic and autonomous systems, **partners are advancing solutions for domain awareness, mapping, and coastal resilience.**



Living Shorelines: Natural and Engineered Resilience

Integrating ecological processes with **engineered design to strengthen coasts.**

Gulf Blue Navigator Cohort 4 will explore innovations that align natural systems with engineered solutions to strengthen **coastal resilience and sustainability.**

This theme supports the **U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's Engineering With Nature®** program, with opportunities spanning data and modeling, sensing technologies, drones, advanced materials, aquaculture systems, and marine bio-based products.



FROM RESEARCH TO MARKET:

USM research is delivering real-world solutions with global impact.

Through applied innovation and collaboration with ERDC, USM researchers are protecting technologies that advance materials, coastal, and defense-related innovation. These developments strengthen Mississippi's position as a leader in research translation and technology development.

USM PROTECTED TECHNOLOGIES Developed with ERDC



FROM COAST TO RIVER, **GULF BLUE CONNECT** SUPPORTS RESEARCH WITH PURPOSE AND IMPACT.