

(((•))) THE BEACON

- A VLAIO × Hubs4Growth collaboration, powered by The Beacon

# Spark! Pitch

Showcase your solution at the Autonomous Summit

Wednesday 16 September 2026 • Quay 102, Antwerp

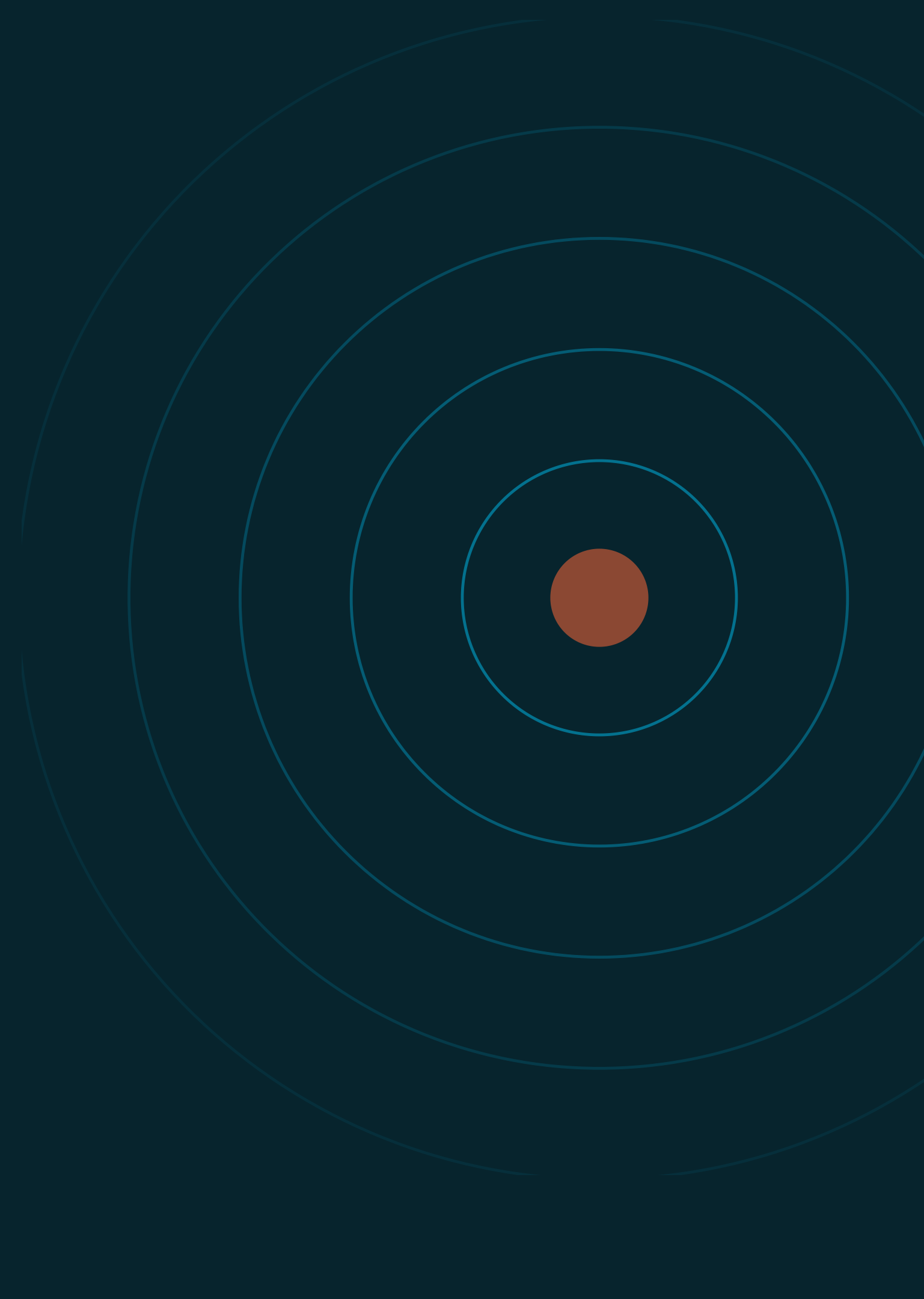
IN COLLABORATION WITH

**VLAIO**

LEAD PARTNER

**Hubs4Growth**

LEAD PARTNER



## — THE OPPORTUNITY

For Flemish innovators & scale-ups

Pitch your autonomous or PortTech solution on the **Autonomous Summit** stage, in front of operators, buyers and the wider ecosystem.

A spotlight moment, *and a potential The Beacon membership*

— THE AUDIENCE

# The audience you'll meet



Port & terminal operators, corporates & end users



Research & deep-tech



Regulators



Investors



The wider ecosystem

— HOW IT WORKS

# The format

9

Flemish companies in  
each session

4 min

Each pitch, then a short  
audience Q&A

- The audience asks questions and votes live

— CHOOSE YOUR TRACK

Pick the track you fit.

# Three tracks

## 01

### Autonomous systems & robotics in operation

Autonomous systems doing the real work: afloat, airborne and across the terminal.

- USVs
- Drones
- Automated ground vehicles
- Terminal robotics
- Autonomous inspection

## 02

### The autonomy stack

The technology layer beneath autonomy: sense, locate, connect, decide.

- AI & edge
- Perception & sensing
- Positioning
- Connectivity
- Digital twins
- Tele-operation

## 03

### Sustainable & intelligent port operations

Data and software for a cleaner, smoother, safer port.

- Energy & emissions monitoring
- Predictive maintenance
- Traffic & flow optimisation
- Port-data platforms

— WHY APPLY

# What's in it for you



Free 2-day summit ticket



A stage in front of buyers and the ecosystem



Live audience Q&A



Matchmaking & introductions through the event app



Promotion across The Beacon and partner channels



Event photos and footage of your pitch



THE PRIZE · BEST PITCH BY AUDIENCE VOTE

A free one-year **Beacon membership**

— ELIGIBILITY

# Who should apply

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✓ **Flanders / Belgium-based startups & scale-ups**

Innovators and growing companies alike.

✓ **Active in PortTech, or a technology tied to our tracks**

Autonomous systems · the autonomy stack · sustainable & intelligent port operations.

✓ **Operational or near-operational**

A live deployment or pilot beats a concept.

✓ **A presenter who can land it in a tight 4-minute format**

— THE PROCESS

# How to apply

Fill in the form and pick your track.

about 10 minutes

[Apply your pitch here](#) →

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Friday 14 August 2026

AFTER YOU'RE SELECTED

01 Selected companies confirmed late August

02 Slides due 7 September

03 Briefing + tech run week of 8 September

— TIMELINE

# Key dates

Applications close



14 Aug

Selection confirmed



21 Aug

Slides due



7 Sept

Pitch day



Wed 16 Sept

# Put Flemish autonomy on stage.

[Apply here](#) →

[ Contact – [robin@thebeacon.eu](mailto:robin@thebeacon.eu) ]

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And you?

Autonomous Summit • Port of the Future Week 2026 • Quay 102, Antwerp