



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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## **IOPC FUNDS: NEW RATIFICATIONS**

The Syrian Arab Republic will join the 1992 Fund with effect from 24 April 2010 and Canada will join the Supplementary Fund with effect from 2 January 2010. <http://www.iopcfund.org/ratifications.htm>

## **REMINDER: IMO INFO GATHERING ON MARINE HNS RESPONSE AND SUBSEA OIL RECOVERY**

Response contractors and others that can contribute information to assist the OPRC-HNS Working Group can now download the information gathering templates. Simply go to the ISCO website at <http://www.spillcontrol.org> and select DOWNLOADS PAGE from the menu on the left hand side of the page. Your contribution will be acknowledged and it's an opportunity for you to raise your profile. We need to know who out there has the know-how and experience. Don't hide your light under a bushel !

## **EUROPE: NEW DISH SERVES UP CLEANSEANET IMAGES**



Tourists admiring the Tagus River from the Lisbon 'miradouros' (belvederes) can now see a large white dish installed on EMSA's roof. The 3.8 metre wide antenna is part of the CleanSeaNet satellite service for detecting oilspills. The antenna provides secure and fast communication of satellite images between all nodes in the [CleanSeaNet](#) network: Lisbon, Tromso, Matera, Benevento and the AZORES. This is just one of the news items in the latest EMSA Newsletter. Download it at: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/>

## **BLACKSMITH INSTITUTE REPORT NOTES FEW TOXIC CLEAN-UP SUCCESSES**

An international antipollution group turned its gaze toward successes in the cleanup of toxic sites in the developing world, but found few candidates worthy of recognition, according to a report released on Wednesday. The fourth annual World's Worst Polluted Places report, by the nonprofit Blacksmith Institute, based in New York, lauded remediation efforts under way in some of the most environmentally troubled places on earth, from mining communities and industrial sites in South America and Africa to overcrowded and desperately polluted cities in Asia.



Global progress on the phase out of leaded gasoline and the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles were also singled out for praise. "The report's 12 success stories, all of which showed scientifically verifiable improvements in human health and decreases in environmental toxicity, were more the exception than the rule", said David Hanrahan, director of global operations for the Blacksmith Institute. "They are only pinpricks of light in the gloom out there", he said. According to estimates by the World Health Organization, the health of more than one billion people is compromised by exposure to toxic pollution. The Blacksmith Institute, which compiled the report with the assistance of Green Cross Switzerland, which works to remediate damages caused by industrial and military disasters, highlighted progress made in the fight against global pollution to demonstrate that the problem of environmental contamination is not insurmountable. But finding success stories in the developing world was not easy.

Read the complete text of this article at: <http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/10/29/report-notes-few-toxic-cleanup-successes/> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for forwarding this item]

### **MADAGASCAR: TOXIC SHIPWRECK IN MADAGASCAR KILLS WHALES, MAKES LOCALS SICK**

A ship carrying toxic waste sunk off the coast of Madagascar, and thousands of tons of refuse were emptied into the rich marine ecosystem. The wreck has had devastating effects on the sea life and the health of people who live inland--causing whales to mysteriously beach in greater numbers, and afflicting the locals with grave respiratory and skin diseases.

The Gulser Ana, a Turkish shipping vessel, ran aground in the southernmost point of Madagascar. It then slowly leaked its load--39,000 tons of raw phosphates, 568 tons of fuel, and 66 tons of diesel into the Indian Ocean.



Read more at: <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/10/toxic-shipwreck-madagascar-kills-whales-disease.php> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for forwarding this item]

### **MALTA WELL PREPARED IN OIL RECOVERY RESPONSE - SUCCESSFUL SIMULATION EXERCISE CONDUCTED OFF DELIMARA**



November 5<sup>th</sup>: "Malta is well prepared and all synergies are in place in case an oil spill incident had to occur in territorial waters." This was the reaction of Mr Bernt Bluhm, Head of the Pollution Preparedness and Response Unit within the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) following this morning's successful oil recovery response exercise carried out off the coast of Delimara. This exercise was conducted by the Malta Maritime Authority which as from March of this year, by a Cabinet decision, has

formally assumed the role of National Competent Authority aimed at enhancing and taking control of the National capability and preparedness to combat pollution incidents. All operations were being directed from the MMA's Emergency Control Centre in Marsa, with participation of the Armed Forces, the Police, MEPA and Civil Protection Department.

Capt Richard Gabriele, Head of Pollution and Incident Response at the Malta Maritime Authority expressed his satisfaction at the successful outcome of this exercise. "Although the exercise is a simulated one, conditions are very real and we have to co-ordinate a complicated operation with the involvement of many other participants. Response has to be timely and coordinated whereby everyone has to abide strictly to the instructions being given especially when crews of different nationalities are involved. We hope that this will always limit itself to a simulation of an incident however, biding by the successful outcome, in case of a real incident involving oil spills, we are confident that the matter will be addressed with professional and successful results."

Press reports can be found at: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20091105/local/mma-holds-oil-recovery-response-exercise> and at: <http://di-ve.com/Default.aspx?ID=72&Action=1&NewsId=65690>

## **USA: NEW DECONTAMINATION GELS SUCCESSFULLY REMOVE/REDUCE RADIONUCLIDES FROM SURFACES OF BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT**

With support from the Office of Deactivation and Decommissioning and Facility Engineering, Cellular Bioengineering, Inc. (CBI) has developed and successfully demonstrated several decontamination gels (DeconGel™ 1101, 1120, and 1121) to remove/reduce radionuclides from building and equipment surfaces. With this method of removing radioactive contamination, doses of radioactivity to workers can be reduced and the facilities can be either reused or disposed in non-radioactive waste areas, significantly decreasing disposal costs. Because DOE owns many facilities needing to be deactivated and decommissioned, the new gels offer an improved tool that can positively impact worker safety and project cost and schedule.

The hydrogel coating can be applied to horizontal, vertical, and inverted surfaces on most substrates, including bare, coated, and painted concrete, aluminum, steel, lead, rubber, Plexiglas®, herculite, wood, porcelain, tile grout, and vinyl, ceramic and linoleum floor tiles. Contamination is removed in a peelable film that can be disposed according to appropriate local, state, and federal regulations. The new gels can also be used to remove particulates, metals, and insoluble organic compounds from surfaces. Read more at: <http://www.decongel.com/documents/USDoEOofficeofEnvMngmntOct09Highlights.pdf>

## **GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION USING ENHANCED ANAEROBIC BIOREMEDIATION**

American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE), E3 Small Projects Grand Prize, 2009 - For the development of a unique groundwater cleanup solution, AAEE honored CDM with a 2009 Excellence in Environmental Engineering award in the small projects category. CDM worked with Rockwell Automation to remediate groundwater contamination at a 9-acre site in Orlando, Florida, that previously housed a computer circuit-board manufacturing facility. During facility operations, chlorinated solvents were released to the groundwater. The contamination (i.e., 2,000,000 ppb methylene chloride) was addressed with enhanced anaerobic bioremediation (EAB) in conjunction with a unique groundwater recirculation technique. CDM pilot-tested and demonstrated the effectiveness of EAB using potassium lactate for the site. In addition to leveraging the power of the site's naturally occurring bacteria, CDM designed a system comprising horizontal recovery and vertical injection wells for introducing potassium lactate into the groundwater and recirculating the groundwater to ensure continual mixing of lactate, bacteria, and contaminants. The well system also exerted hydraulic control, preventing contaminant migration off site and flooding the contaminated zones with lactate that enhanced the growth of dechlorinating bacteria significantly. Full-scale operation began in December 2007, and within 6 months, volatile organic compound mass fell by >90%. Remediation of the methylene chloride in the targeted area has been completed, with no contaminant rebound observed. More information at the AAEE Web site: <http://www.aaee.net/Website/E3GPSmallProjects.htm>

## **CANADA: RUTTER DELIVERS RADAR BASED OIL SPILL DETECTION SYSTEMS TO ITALY**

Rutter Inc. has announced that its Technologies business unit recently delivered two of its state-of-the-art Radar Based Oil Spill Detection Systems to Castalia Ecolmar S.C.p.A (Castalia), an Italian enterprise dealing with marine environmental protection. These systems were installed in Italy on separate vessels, the *MV Esino* and the *MV Santangelo*,

and will be deployed by Castalia in fulfilling their long term contract with the Italian Environment Ministry. In achieving these sales Rutter is building on its very successful independent trials in 2008 which resulted in the permanent deployment of an oil spill detection system on the StatoilHydro Troll C platform off northern Norway.

"Rutter was particularly pleased to deliver its Oil Spill Detection Systems to Castalia, and we appreciated the time they spent with us to ensure we met their specific requirements," said Paul Snow, Director of Sales and Marketing. "They were looking for a cost effective system that would reliably detect oil spills from a moving vessel and be effective in a wide range of sea conditions. More info: <http://www.rutter.ca/PR10162009.pdf>

## **USA: SOLID RESOURCES, INC. AND O'BRIEN'S RESPONSE MANAGEMENT INC. ANNOUNCE THEIR MERGER AND INTEGRATION**

O'Brien's Response Management Inc. (O'Brien'sRM), a global provider of environmental compliance, emergency preparedness, response management, disaster services and crisis management for numerous industry sectors and government agencies, announced today its plans to merge and integrate Solid Resources, Inc. (SRI), into its Government Services Department. This action is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009.

SRI was acquired by O'Brien'sRM in 2007. Based in Maitland, Florida, SRI is a highly specialized professional consulting firm that has been providing preparedness, response and recovery consulting services to state and local government agencies since 1992. SRI's services include public assistance consulting and debris management and monitoring associated with the FEMA and Federal Highway Administration programs. Additional services include technical consulting and assistance with mitigation plans, continuity of operations plans, debris management plans, recovery and debris management training and grant management.

For additional information, please contact Tim O'Leary, Vice President of Communications, via email at [mediarelations@obriensrm.com](mailto:mediarelations@obriensrm.com) or call (281) 320-9796.

## **UK: HAZMAT EVENT 2010**

Birmingham, 23-24 February 2010. The 2010 Hazmat Event promises to be bigger and better than ever before, thanks to continued support from Emergency Services as well as other HazMat Professionals. The two-day conference draws on knowledge and experience from a range of Hazmat Professionals, Industry Leaders, as well as NCEC's own Emergency Responders. Book before 30 November 2010 to claim an early bird discount. More info at: <http://the-ncec.com/hazmat-event/>

## **UK: OIL SPILL ONSHORE EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING COURSE**

UK DECC Level 3, Offshore. 2 - 4 December 2009, Palm Court Hotel, Aberdeen - Essential training for all personnel, staff and contractors who are Emergency Room Managers or hold positions as advisors, dealing with a response to offshore oil spills. This course offers a complete overview of issues relating to the response to oil spills, to ensure adequate response arrangements can be managed, achieved and understood by all concerned.

For more information, go to: <http://www.oilspilltraining.com/training/DECC%20Level%203%20Flyer.pdf>

## **ORGANISERS OF TRAINING COURSES, CONFERENCES & EXHIBITIONS**

Reminder: To ensure your 2010 events are listed on the ISCO Website Events Pages, send details to ISCO Events Secretary, Mary Ann Dalgleish at [mrydetroit@aol.com](mailto:mrydetroit@aol.com)

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter.