



## ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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GRAND HYATT HOTEL  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
12-16 APRIL 2010  
International Oil Spill Conference  
[www.spillcon.com](http://www.spillcon.com)

### HUGH PARKER RETIRES FROM ITOPF



On 25th March, friends and colleagues, past and present, joined Hugh Parker at the Tower Bridge Walkways to celebrate his retirement from ITOPF. Hugh was the most senior member of ITOPF's spill response team, having attended almost 100 incidents worldwide during his 30 year career, including the EXXON VALDEZ, SEA EMPRESS and PRESTIGE.

Hugh trained as a chemist and joined ITOPF as a Technical Adviser in 1980 from the UK government's Warren Spring Laboratory, where he worked on the development of aerial techniques for monitoring and combating oil spills at sea. In 1998 he was appointed Technical Team Manager and ten years later became ITOPF's first Technical Director, reflecting his key role in developing the Federation's strategy in its core activity of spill response.

ITOPF's Chairman Bjorn Moller has paid tribute to Hugh for "his tremendous contribution to ITOPF and to the industry over the past 30 years" and has noted that his efforts "have been a big part of creating ITOPF's reputation as a world class organisation and an undisputed leader in its field". For his colleagues in the office, Hugh's deep knowledge, extensive experience and wise counsel will be greatly missed. <http://www.itopf.com/news-and-events/>

### ISCO AGM SET FOR LONDON ON 4<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2010

ISCO Members should please note that ISCO's 2010 AGM will be held in London on 4th May, 2010. Depending on the number of members advising their intention to attend, the meeting will be held at either the IMO HQ at Albert Embankment or at the Naval Club in Hill Street, Mayfair.

The Agenda and other meeting papers are under preparation and will be sent out to Members in the near future.

### FRANCE: TOTAL LOSES BID TO OVERTURN FINE OVER ERIKA OIL SPILL

March 30 (Bloomberg) -- Total SA, Europe's largest oil refiner, lost a bid to overturn a 375,000-euro (\$505,000) criminal fine over a 1999 oil tanker accident that spilled fuel along the French coast. The Paris appeals court said today that the company should have done more to vet the ship's sea-worthiness. Prosecutors said the company failed to enforce its own internal standards on the vessel, which it hired from another company.

“If there had been a new inspection, it would have certainly revealed the need for work” to repair the “serious corrosion” that led to the ship’s sinking, Judge Joseph Valantin said. Total committed “an error of recklessness linked to the sinking’s cause.”

The Erika accident, known by the ship’s name, dumped about 20,000 tons of fuel into the sea in 1999 after the vessel sank off northwest France in a storm, spilling fuel along 400 kilometers (250 miles) of French coast. Total paid more than 370 million euros for a clean-up following the sinking and in civil damages awarded to affected communities and the French state under the January 2008 judgment. [Thanks to Gerald Graham for providing the link to this report] Read more: <http://www.businessweek.com:80/news/2010-03-30/total-loses-bid-to-overtum-french-fine-over-erika-oil-spill.html>

## **EMSA: MALTESE REGISTERED VESSEL IN FIRST EMSA OIL SPILL EXERCISE OFF BULGARIAN COAST**



The Maltese-registered vessel Santa Maria carrying out the oil spill recovery exercise.

MT Santa Maria, a European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) oil recovery vessel flying a Maltese flag recently conducted an international oil spill recovery exercise in the Black Sea, in conjunction with the Bulgarian Maritime Administration. A Falzon Group tanker, Santa Maria was docked at the Odessos ship repair yard in Varna, Bulgaria. Earlier this month, the

EMSA participated in an oil pollution response exercise organised off the port of Varna. Santa Maria was one of two EMSA contracted oil spill recovery vessels taking part. The other vessel was GSP Orion. This is the first time this type of exercise was conducted in Bulgaria, with the aim of testing the co-ordination and co-operation between EMSA vessels and Bulgarian oil spill response resources. It is also the first time that a vessel registered in Malta carried out such an exercise in the Black Sea. Santa Maria is the second vessel to be docked in Varna. Prior to this vessel, Falzon Group had converted Santa Elena into a double hull. EMSA's contracted vessels participate in regular training activities and drills. These are designed to verify and improve the operation of onboard equipment. Together with national maritime authorities - national coastguards, port administrations and search-and-rescue organisations - the vessels also participate in wider exercises involving larger scale marine disaster preparedness activities. Falzon Group owns a fleet of six tankers, three of which are double hulls and have been in the bunkering/oil sector business for over 55 years. [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for providing links] [http://econ.bg/en/news/article176730/first\\_emsa\\_oil\\_spill\\_preparedness\\_exercise\\_off\\_the\\_bulgarian\\_coast](http://econ.bg/en/news/article176730/first_emsa_oil_spill_preparedness_exercise_off_the_bulgarian_coast) or <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100328/business/maltese-registered-vessel-in-first-emsa-oil-spill-exercise-off-bulgarian-coast> or <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/>

## **TAIWAN, CHINA: CHINA PROPOSES BOOSTING DATA EXCHANGES ON MARINE POLLUTION**

Taipei, March 29 (CNA): A visiting Chinese official suggested on Monday that the two sides across the Taiwan, China, Strait expand exchanges of information on marine pollution incidents and contingency monitoring and warning techniques.

Zhang Huirong, head of the East China Seas Branch under China's State Oceanic Administration (SOA), brought up the proposal at a two-day cross-strait marine forum in Taipei City, organized by the Taiwan, China, Green Productivity Foundation at the behest of Taiwan, China's Environmental Protection Administration (EPA). On the opening day of the forum Monday, Zhang said China's coasts have faced a serious threat in recent years from toxic "red tides" which result from harmful algal blooms that are poisonous to marine life and humans.

There were 86 occurrences of red tides on the East China Sea between 2000 and 2008, covering up to as much as 71 percent of the sea in a single year, Zhang said.

In addition to red tides, another form of pollution called green tides caused economic damage to the East China Sea region that reached 30 million yuan (NT\$140 million) in 2008, he said. Zhang also noted that oil leaks from nuclear power plants and crude oil refineries into waters along China's coast had increased from 1.94 million tons in 1949 to 580 million tons in 2008. Read more:

[http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews\\_Detail.aspx?Type=aSOC&ID=201003290032](http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aSOC&ID=201003290032)

## **USA: COULD OIL-SPILL DISASTER HAPPEN IN FLORIDA? AUSSIE RIG DEBACLE OFFERS LESSONS**

On Nov. 3, the West Atlas oil rig burns about 150 miles off Australia's northwest coast. Environmental concerns about the industry deepened last year after the fire burned unchecked for more than 2 months while millions of barrels of oil spilled into the sea.



As the nation's top regulator of offshore drilling, Elmer "Bud" Danenberger was nearing retirement last year when he began to get word of a major rig accident halfway around the world. An Australian oil well blew out at dawn Aug. 21, gushing yellow-green crude into the Timor Sea along the country's northern coast. And it wasn't letting up. Though 10,000 miles away, the spill would quickly play into Florida's emotional debate over whether drilling rigs similar to the fated one down under should be permitted within sight of the Sunshine State's sugar-sand beaches. And for good reason: The Aussie debacle lasted more than 10 weeks, spewing millions of gallons of oil into the ocean. As a result, it is giving Floridians a raw and apt look at the scenario they fear most about offshore drilling, thanks in part to an Australian investigation providing an astonishingly detailed chronology of the disaster. [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCA Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for passing on this news article] Read the complete report at: [http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/os-offshore-disaster-lessons\\_0,4136178.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/os-offshore-disaster-lessons_0,4136178.story)

## **TECHNOLOGY: MOBILE LEAK DETECTION USING HYDROCARBON SENSOR SYSTEMS**

Underwater leak detection In order to improve detection efficiency and also eliminate the need to introduce additional potential pollutants to underwater pipeline systems CONTROS has developed a new mobile leak detection system called HydroC™ which has been successfully used in hydrocarbon surveys and pipeline inspections to water depths up to 2000 metres.

Innovation in offshore and subsea field developments has moved oil and gas production into more and more difficult and harsh environmental areas. The global demand for energy challenges the offshore oil & gas industry to go for deeper regions and the arctic areas may soon be next. However, environmental awareness and concern puts focus on effective and reliable monitoring systems to avoid leaks and spills of harmful fluids.

Analogue and digital outputs enable users to connect the sensor to existing interfaces, data loggers, Notebooks, controllers, etc. This LDS is in use by leading pipeline inspection companies. CONTROS has equipped numerous ROV and AUV with their latest leak detection technology. For further information please contact Stefan Kramer at [s.kramer@contros.eu](mailto:s.kramer@contros.eu) or visit [www.contros.eu](http://www.contros.eu) [With acknowledgements to Oceanbuzz Newsletter, published by Intelligent Exhibitions <http://www.oceanbusiness.com> ]

## **USA: EPA - APRIL EDITION OF TECHDIRECT AND LATEST ISSUE OF TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY**

New technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and ground water. <http://www.clu-in.org:80/techdirect/td042010.htm>

The February 1-15, 2010 *Technology Innovation News Survey* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. The *Survey* contains market/commercialization information; reports on demonstrations, feasibility studies and research; and other news relevant to the hazardous waste community interested in technology development. The latest survey is available at: <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

## USA: OVERVIEW OF OIL SPILLS AND OIL SPILL GOVERNANCE

A useful information and reference document, can be viewed at:

[http://www.myfloridahouse.com/FileStores/Web/HouseContent/Approved/Web%20Site/uploads/documents/energy\\_exploration/Oil%20Spills%20%20and%20Oil%20Spill%20Governance.pdf](http://www.myfloridahouse.com/FileStores/Web/HouseContent/Approved/Web%20Site/uploads/documents/energy_exploration/Oil%20Spills%20%20and%20Oil%20Spill%20Governance.pdf)

## AUSTRALIA: HAZMAT 2010 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Hazmat 2010 is the key hazardous materials, chemical management and dangerous goods conference and exhibition in Australia. Held over two days, presentations by leading industry experts and international key note speakers cover current issues and future topics.



<http://www.fpa.com.au/events/?events=hazmat>

## USA: CLEAN GULF – CALL FOR PARTICIPATION FOR OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

CLEAN GULF is the premier Gulf Coast Training & Exhibition Event focused on the vital oil and hazmat spill, marine salvage and fire, port and maritime security, prevention and response markets. The 2010 CLEAN GULF Event is issuing an industry-wide call for participation. A government/industry-based committee has formed to assist with programming this event. Prospective authors are invited to submit a 200-300 word abstract(s) for consideration by the program committee by Thursday, April 8, 2010. Abstracts should be submitted by email to Kayla Appelt, Conference Coordinator, [Kappelt@tradefairgroup.com](mailto:Kappelt@tradefairgroup.com). For questions call 713-343-1869. More information at: <http://www.cleangulf.org>



## CANADA: 33<sup>RD</sup> AMOP TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND RESPONSE

The 33<sup>rd</sup> AMOP Technical Seminar will take place from June 7 to 9, 2010 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Listed below are the papers that will be presented in each session.

The Seminar will feature plenary sessions of 10- or 20-minute presentations on spill-related topics including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE). Presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Sessions will conclude with a Speaker's Corner where participants can formally present "last minute" results of their research. Poster presentations will be held daily at which researchers can present their latest work. More information at: [http://www.etc-cte.ec.gc.ca/news/amop\\_seminfo\\_10.html](http://www.etc-cte.ec.gc.ca/news/amop_seminfo_10.html)

## USA: CLEAN ATLANTIC 2010 WILL NOT BE GOING AHEAD

Plans for CLEAN ATLANTIC started several years ago when the oil spill response community and the overall energy marketplace were in full swing. While the prevention and response community stands ready to deal with any potential incidents, the economic downturn our country has experienced has affected this energy marketplace and our emergency response community. It has become apparent that staff, budgets, and resources have been stretched very thin due to the economy. Therefore, it has become a challenge for folks to commit to attending, speaking, exhibiting or sponsoring the inaugural CLEAN ATLANTIC event. Rather than continue with an event that prohibits community members from participating, the organisers have decided the prudent decision would be to cancel the event at this time.

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.