

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO, Observer Status at IOPC Funds and is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisation.

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The Register of ISCO Members is maintained by **Ms Mary Ann Dagleish** (Membership Director). She is also responsible for collecting membership dues.

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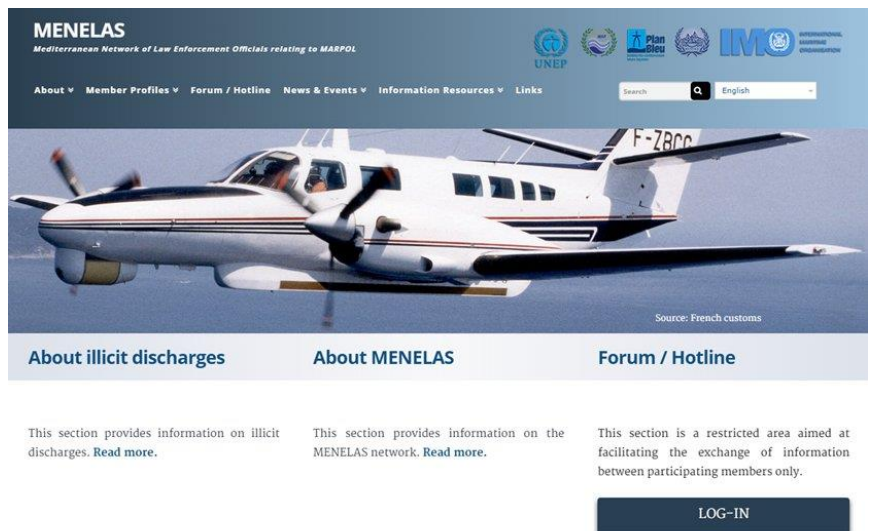
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MEDITERRANEAN: MENELAS INFORMATION SYSTEM LAUNCHED

December 14 - The information system of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), developed in the context of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation (ReGoKo) Project implemented by Plan Bleu with technical support from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has been launched and is now available both in English and French through the following website: <http://www.menelas.org/>.



MENELAS
Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL

UNEP Plan Bleu IMO

About Member Profiles Forum / Hotline News & Events Information Resources Links

Search English

F-ZRCC

Source: French customs

About illicit discharges About MENELAS Forum / Hotline

This section provides information on illicit discharges. [Read more.](#)

This section provides information on the MENELAS network. [Read more.](#)

This section is a restricted area aimed at facilitating the exchange of information between participating members only.

LOG-IN

Above: Snapshot of the MENELAS website interface

The MENELAS information system is an internet-based tool comprising two main parts:

1. a public interface where general information is made available to the public in order to raise awareness on the problem of illicit discharges from ships at sea, the aim of the network, its participating and associate members, its activities and achievements. The public part also contains information on the legislative framework and procedural requirements in participating members related to the prosecution of illicit discharges offenders. Statistical data will be made available in the future;
2. a "forum/hotline", which is a restricted area aimed at facilitating the exchange of information between participating members only, where requests for specific information can be made, restricted information can be shared on *inter alia* legal

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International news (continued)

frameworks, tips for investigators, special techniques/devices/tools, evidence gathering/procedures, lessons learnt, post-case analyses, and where all participating members can be alerted of a specific emergency through a hotline with the possibility to interact with each other accordingly.

The wider MENELAS community is composed of enforcement personnel, investigators, sanctioning officials as well as prosecutors, magistrates or officials from penalising authorities within Mediterranean coastal States and the European Union, which are all expected to be also users of the MENELAS information system. The Centre will give secured access to the "forum/hotline" to each user upon request from the relevant MENELAS Designated Representative. *Source: REMPEC News* <http://www.rempec.org/>

EUROPE: COMMISSION PROPOSES TO AMEND EMSA'S FOUNDING REGULATION AS PART OF NEW BORDER PACKAGE

January 2 - The European Commission recently put forward a set of proposals (the so-called 'border package'), introducing the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. Part of this package is a proposal (COM[2015] 667 final) to amend the EMSA founding regulation.

The purpose is to foster closer cooperation between EMSA, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (previously Frontex) and the European Fisheries Control Agency in order to provide more efficient and cost-effective multi-purpose services to support national authorities carrying out coast guard functions. This will build on and strengthen the existing cooperation between the three agencies, and raise the profile of coast guard functions across Europe.

For EMSA specifically, it is anticipated that there will be a large impact on the Agency's activities in the following areas: improving maritime surveillance capabilities; providing flexible services based on remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS); securing satellite AIS data; and capacity building, for example through an increase in the provision of training programmes.

Under the current proposal, if approved by the EU institutions, EMSA would receive for these tasks an additional €87 million for the period 2017-2020. *BBC News* [Read more](#)

International news (continued)

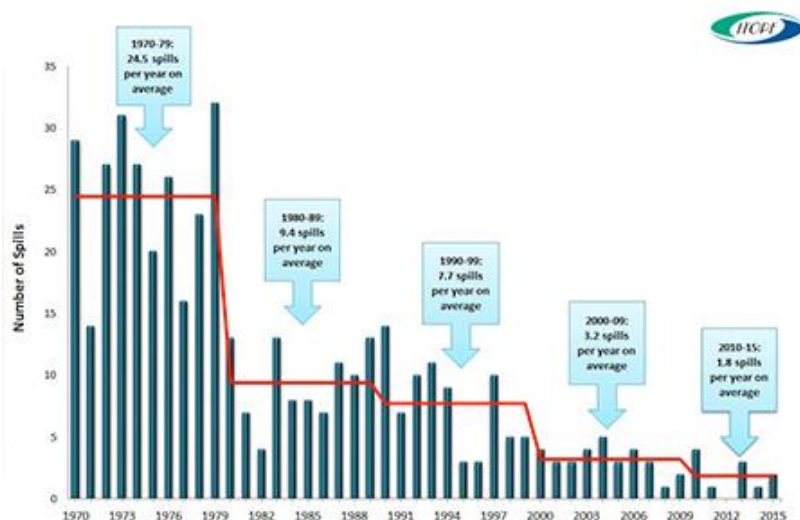
ITOPF: DOWNWARD TREND IN TANKER SPILLS CONTINUES

Over half-way into this decade and the downward trend in oil spills from tankers continues. For the last three and a half decades the average number of incidents involving large oil spills, i.e. greater than 700 tonnes, from tankers has progressively reduced and since 2010 stands at an average of 1.8 per year.

In 2015 two spills of oil over 700 tonnes from tankers were recorded; one a crude oil spill in Singapore and the other a spill of naphtha in Turkey. ITOPF provided technical advice to the vessels' insurers in both incidents. Six medium-sized spills (7-700 tonnes) were also reported in 2015, involving cargoes of asphalt, naphtha and slurry oil, as well as bunker fuel.

The total amount of oil lost to the environment through tanker incidents in 2015 was approximately 7,000 tonnes, the majority of which can be attributed to the two large spills.

This continuing trend in low numbers of large oil spills annually is encouraging news for tanker operators and governments alike as they continue to work to improve standards of operations in sea-borne transportation. *Source: <http://www.itopf.com>*



Incident reports from around the world (listed in chronological order)

MEXICO: DEATH TOLL FROM PIPELINE BLAST RISES TO 4

December 27 - The death toll from the pipeline explosion last week in the southeastern Mexican state of Tabasco has risen to four, health officials said.

The explosion occurred in C-33, a village outside the city of Cardenas, where a pipeline transporting light fuel leaked after being repaired, Martinez Herrera said.

State-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, "had the pipe repaired and under control, but a leak flooded a half hectare (one acre) of a neighboring field, which filled with fuel and highly volatile vapors that a spark ignited," Martinez Herrera told reporters. *Fox News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NORWAY: FIERCE NORTH SEA STORM FORCES PLATFORM EVACUATIONS; LOOSE BARGE DRIFTS PAST DANGER ZONE



Photo: The BP operated Valhall oil field is located in 70 meters of water in the southern Norwegian North Sea. Photo: BP

December 31 - A fierce storm in the North Sea forced oil firms to evacuate platforms and shut down production on Thursday on concerns that they could be hit by a drifting barge that had broken its anchor.

The strong winds had ripped the barge from its moorings and sent it towards BP's Valhall platform, which lies in the middle of the North Sea between Norway and Britain.

This prompted the oil and gas company to shut down output and evacuate dozens of staff on board.

ConocoPhillips also stopped production and removed crew from installations in the same area.

A spokeswoman for the Rescue Coordination Centre for southern Norway told Reuters the barge eventually missed the BP platform by some two kilometres. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

URUGUAY: FISHING BOAT WITH 300 TONS OF FUEL BURNING IN MONTEVIDEO BAY

January 3 - A fishing boat carrying 300 tons of fuel and which may have had around 40 crewmembers on board - all of whom apparently abandoned ship safely - is burning in Montevideo Bay, Uruguayan fire authorities said Sunday.

"We're waiting for the fuel to be consumed because if we continue spraying water what we're going to do is sink it and spill the fuel, creating an ecological disaster," Fire Department spokesman Ricardo Piriz told EFE.

The vessel has been declared a total loss and has been towed to a secure location in the bay so that the fuel can burn itself out. It is under constant observation by firefighters and authorities expect it to continue burning all day Sunday. *Fox News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: HOODLUMS SET FIRE TO BAYELSA OIL SPILL SITE

January 3 - Hoodlums have set ablaze an impacted oil spill site at Oruma/Yiba-Ama community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

It was learnt the oil spill occurred along Shell Petroleum Development Company's Kolo Creek, Rumuekpe trunk line on June 2, 2015, at Odau community, Abua/Odua Local Government Area, Rivers State, and spread to Oruma/Yiba-Ama. Shell was said to have abandoned the Ogbia axis of the spill site and failed to clean up the polluted environment.

The report of the Joint Investigation Visit on the spill, which was concluded on June 25, 2015, showed the spill was caused by a third-party interference that spilled 306 barrels of crude oil. *Punch Newspaper* [Read more](#)

UK: GORLESTON OIL SPILL BELIEVED TO HAVE COME FROM TANKER WHICH SANK IN 1978

January 4 - Walkers and dog owners are being advised to keep away from a stretch of coastline after oil deposits, believed to be from a historic shipping disaster, were exposed on the sands. The clean-up operation is beginning this morning.

The oil was spotted at parts of about two miles of the shoreline, running from Gorleston pier to Hopton over the weekend.

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

Ten HM Coastguard rescue officers from Gorleston and Winterton spent more than six-and-a-half hours along stretches of the beach on Saturday – following reports of a “pollution incident” at Gorleston.

The exposed oil is believed to have come from a historic shipping disaster that took place nearly 40 years ago. The Eleni V sank off the coast in 1978 and lost more than 5,000 tones of oil – the worst marine oil slick to have hit the east coast. The Greek oil tanker was sailing in thick fog when she was struck by the French bulk carrier Roseline six miles off Winterton. *The Lowestoft Journal*
[Read more](#)

January 5 - Clean-up operation at mile-long oil spill on Gorleston completed - Clean-up work has been completed today at Gorleston beach where oil from a shipwreck almost 40 years ago had been exposed by recent storms. *Great Yarmouth Mercury*
[Read more](#)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: FEARS OF OIL SPILL FROM STRICKEN PNG VESSEL

January 5 - Officials in Papua New Guinea's East New Britain province fear a ship that ran aground last month may be leaking oil.

The MV Kimbe Queen struck a reef near Talele Island, near Rabaul, on the 23rd of December. *Radio New Zealand* [Read more](#)

LIBYA: OIL STORAGE TANKS SET ON FIRE DURING IS ASSAULT

January 6 - At least four oil storage tanks have been set ablaze during deadly fighting in Libya as the Islamic State group tries to seize export terminals, the National Oil Company said Wednesday.

The fires broke out at key terminals in Al-Sidra and Ras Lanouf, located in the so-called "oil crescent" along Libya's northern coast, said a statement from the NOC management loyal to the internationally recognised government.

The NOC statement did not make clear whether the fires were still burning or if fighting was still under way for a third successive day in the IS push to seize the terminals. *Yahoo News* [Read more](#)

USA: CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR DECLARES LA-AREA GAS LEAK AN EMERGENCY

January 6 - Governor Jerry Brown on Wednesday declared a Los Angeles-area natural gas leak that has been sickening nearby residents for more than two months an emergency, calling for alternatives to stop the underground leak if existing efforts fail.

Southern California Gas Co, which operates the well that is the site of the underground methane leak, is trying to stop it by drilling a relief well to reach a damaged pipeline, then injecting fluids and heavy mud into it.

The governor's office said in a statement the utility will need to identify how it will stop the leak if a relief well fails to seal it - or if the existing leak worsens.

The leak was discovered on Oct. 23 at a well used for natural gas storage in Aliso Canyon just outside Los Angeles' Porter Ranch neighborhood, which is home to more than 30,000 people. Thousands of residents were forced to move over the holidays, with the company underwriting their temporary housing.

Officials from Southern California Gas, a division of Sempra Energy, say they expect to stop the leak in late February to late March. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

CANADA: OIL LEAKS FROM COME BY CHANCE REFINERY INTO PLACENTIA BAY

January 6 - Response teams are currently in the Placentia Bay area working to contain a spill from the Come By Chance refinery.

North Atlantic, which operates the refinery, says its operations team first discovered a leak coming from a pipe at its dock, or 'jetty' on Monday. It says crude oil and water came out of a broken section of pipeline and leaked into the waters of Placentia Bay.

The company said the leak was stopped within an hour of the discovery and the company's response team deployed a containment boom and immediately started clean-up in the area.

To help with the efforts, the Eastern Canada Response Corporation (ECRC) was contacted Monday. The team can't do assessments in the dark, so it didn't start working until daybreak on Tuesday.

After a day-long search of Placentia Bay, ECRC found oil on the shores near Bordeaux, which is six kilometres southwest of the refinery. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

January 7 - Efforts continue to clean up oil spill near refinery - North Atlantic says oil appears to be contained to a small beach in Placentia Bay

Crews from the ECRC and North Atlantic Refinery are still at work today attempting to clean up oil that leaked into Placentia Bay Monday from a cracked pipe at the refinery dock near Come By Chance.

Gloria Warren-Slade, communications manager for North Atlantic, told TC Media this morning that from air surveillance yesterday it appears the light crude oil drifted onto a beach at Bordeaux, about five kilometers east of the refinery. *The Telegram* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (countries listed in alphabetical order)

CANADA & USA: NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP OFF THE SHORE OF LAKE HURON? U.S. LAWMAKERS HAVE THEIR SAY

January 7 - On March 1, the Canadian Minister of the Environment will either approve or disapprove Ontario Power Generation's plan to build a deep geological repository that will store nuclear waste right off the coast of Lake Huron. The Great Lakes make up one-fifth of the world's supply of fresh water, so many, not just environmental activists, are wondering why a nuclear waste dump located less than one mile from Lake Huron seems like a smart idea.

Ontario Power Generation's plans assert that the nuclear waste dump will hold the radioactive contents for 100,000 years. Opposition points out that the Great Lakes were only created 12,000 years ago, so the proximity is irresponsible and the alleged lifespan of the repository is unrealistic.

Rep. Candice Miller wants the plans halted for good. Miller writes in *The Times Herald* that she has "repeatedly called on the State Department to engage the International Joint Commission to ensure we can stop the proposed project." Miller points out that millions depend on the Great Lakes for their economic and social livelihoods. *The Inquisitor* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman of Marine Pollution Control]

ITALY CONFIRMS HIGHER CANCER, DEATH RATES FROM MOB'S DUMPING OF TOXIC WASTE

January 2 - A health survey mandated by Italy's Parliament has confirmed higher-than-normal incidents of death and cancer among residents in and around Naples, because of decades of toxic-waste dumping by the local Camorra mob.

The report by the National Institute of Health said it was "critical" to address the rates at which babies in the provinces of Naples and Caserta are being hospitalized in the first year of life for "excessive" instances of tumors, especially brain tumors.

The report, which updated an initial study in 2014, blamed the higher-than-usual rates on "ascertained or suspected exposure to a combination of environmental contaminants that can be emitted or released from illegal hazardous waste dump sites and/or the uncontrolled burning of both urban and hazardous waste."

Residents have long complained about adverse health effects from the dumping, which has poisoned the underground wells that irrigate the farmland that provides vegetables for much of central and southern Italy. Over the years, police have sequestered dozens of fields because their irrigation wells contained high levels of lead, arsenic and the industrial solvent tetrachloride.

Authorities say the contamination is the result of the Camorra's multibillion-dollar racket in disposing of toxic waste, mainly from industries in Italy's wealthy north that ask no questions about where the garbage goes as long as it is taken off their hands — for a small fraction of the cost of legal disposal. In recent years, Camorra turncoats have revealed how the mafia racket works, directing police to specific sites where toxic garbage was dumped. *The Washington Post* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: SHELL UPBRAIDS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S RASH VERDICT

January 4 - THE Shell Petroleum Development Company, (SPDC), has noted with dismay that the Amnesty International did not carry out a thorough check before releasing the report that indicted it (Shell) for failing to clean up four oil spill sites in Ogoni land, which it had claimed to have cleaned up since 2011.

Shell's General Manager, External Relations, Igo Weli and Chairman of Bodo Mediation Initiative, Inemo Samiama, in an interaction with journalists in Port Harcourt yesterday, noted that proper remediation was done on the Bomu manifold oil spill site and was certified by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (Nosdra), in 2011.

Weli explained that however that some illegal oil bunkering activities in the area must have re-polluted the remediated site, insisting that the amnesty report was conflicting, especially, as it failed to produce the geographical data base of the polluted area.

He added: "SPDC sites have been remediated since 2011, the re-polluted site maybe what the amnesty saw and reported. It is important to take time to get all sides of the dynamics of the situation before reporting.

"If there are re-pollution after certification and someone goes there and takes a picture and claims nothing has been done to the site, it is very wrong and a wild allegation. We are going to test the site again and if the laboratory test emphasizes the need to go back and clean up the site, we will not hesitate to do that." *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

USA: MASSIVE NATURAL GAS LEAK IN CALIFORNIA EXPECTED TO GUSH METHANE UNTIL MARCH

December 29 - The massive natural gas leak discovered in October at a Southern California Gas Company facility in Aliso Canyon just keeps getting worse. Engineers have so far been unable to plug the leaky pipe casing or even slow the flow of gas by flushing the well with fluid. Now the company is telling reporters it may take until February or March for a relief well to be completed, allowing engineers to cut the gas off at the source.

So why is the leak taking so long to plug? The main reason is simply how deep the well is buried. The base of the well sits 8,000 feet underground, making it very difficult to reach or plug due to the amount of pressure from the leaking gas. Efforts to drill a relief well still have a long way to go: so far, the new well reaches less than halfway, only 3,800 feet.

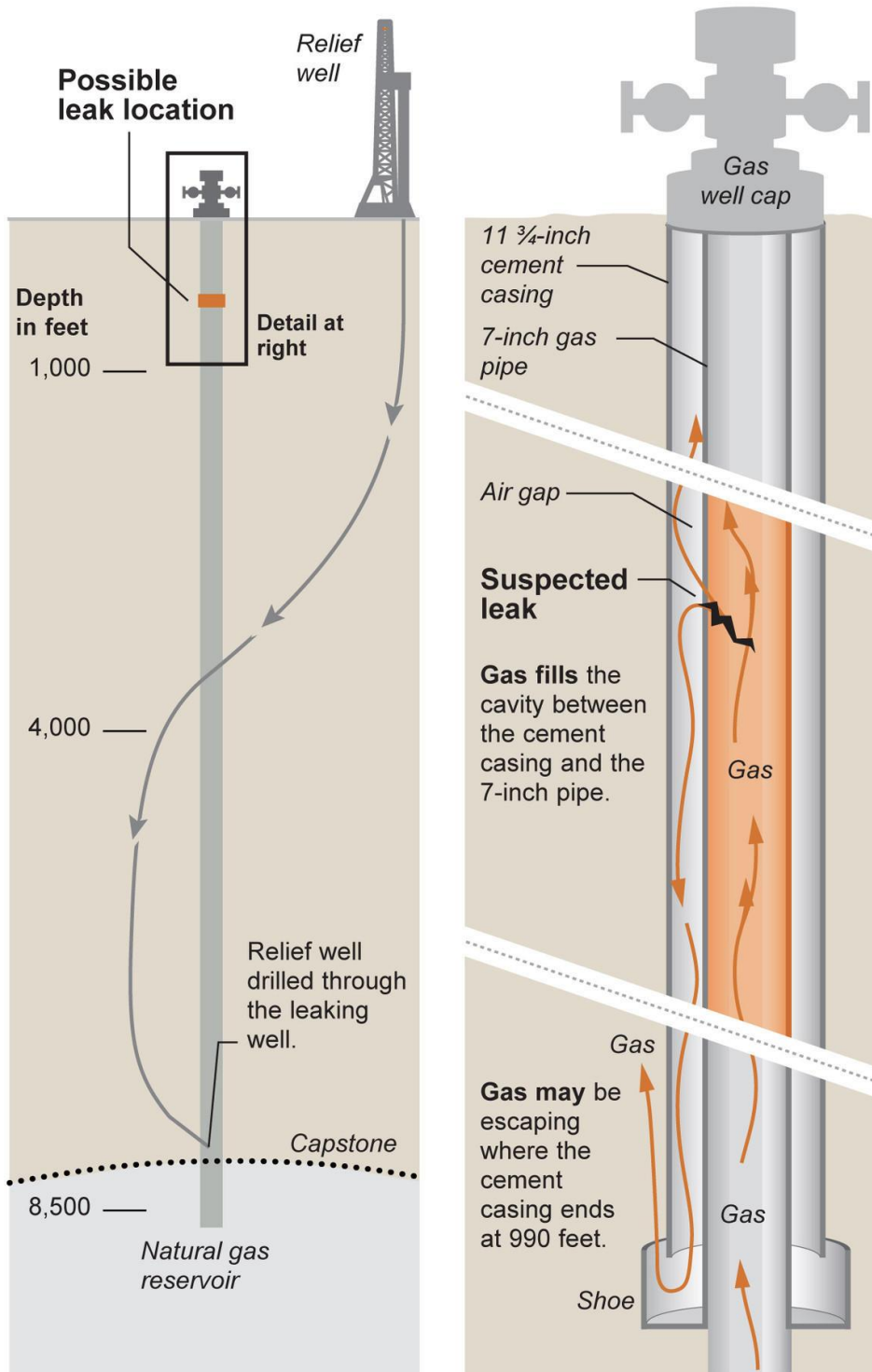
Other news reports from around the world (continued)

The well has continued to belch 110,000 pounds of natural gas into the atmosphere every hour, adding up to over 150 million pounds. If those numbers don't scare you, the infrared aerial footage taken on 17 December, 2016 will. The video (below) shows a massive cloud of gas billowing out of the site and blanketing the surrounding countryside. Watching the footage, it's easy to see why thousands of nearby homes have already been forced to evacuate due to health concerns. So far, more than 2,200 households have been relocated and another 2,600 are in the process. *Inhabitat* [Read more](#)

January 2 - Why the Porter Ranch gas leak could take months to fix

Locating the gas leak

Engineers speculate that the leak is coming from a hole in a 7-inch-diameter pipe about 500 feet below the surface.



Source: Southern California Gas Co.

@latimesgraphics

The damaged well in Aliso Canyon, known as SS-25 for Standard Sesnon 25, extends down 8,748 feet, reaching and penetrating a layer of nonporous rock, the capstone, that keeps the stored gas from escaping - Unless there is a breach in the pipes.

SoCal Gas tried to plug the well the day after discovering the leak by injecting it with brine and mud, a mixture of water, potassium chloride and bentonite clay, said Jason Marshall, chief deputy director of the California Department of Conservation, which regulates and oversees the state's oil, natural gas and geothermal wells.

But approximately 470 feet down, the injections were blocked by an ice plug formed by the bonding of water molecules and methane. Boots & Coots Services, a Texas company that specializes in well blowouts, recommended dissolving the plug by injecting the well with ethylene glycol, antifreeze.

The company, a subsidiary of Halliburton Co., was founded by Asger "Boots" Hansen and Edward "Coots" Matthews, both of whom worked with the legendary Paul "Red" Adair, the oil well firefighter whose company helped put out the Aliso Canyon fires in 1968 and 1975.

The ethylene glycol was applied through special tubing that arrived Nov. 1 from a drilling platform off the coast of Louisiana. It worked.

With the ice barrier out of the way, crews resumed injections from the well head into the pipes. But the pressure of the escaping gas, measured on average at 2,700 pounds per square inch, was greater than the pressure of the thick cocktail being pushed down.

After seven attempts, Marshall said, engineers began to worry that if they pushed too hard with the mud cocktail, they might rupture the pipes, causing an even greater leak.

SoCal Gas decided to drill two relief wells to intersect SS-25 at its juncture with the capstone. The new wells would feature larger and less obstructed piping for the insertion of

the brine and mud. The drawback is that the drilling will take months.

Los Angeles Times

[Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

January 7 - State of Emergency in Porter Ranch Amid Alarming Oil Spill Levels

California governor Jerry Brown ordered new regulations for natural gas facilities located in California earlier today, which include increased safety measures and daily inspections. The decision comes in the wake of the massive gas leak in the town of Porter Ranch, located on the outskirts of Los Angeles. The disaster at the Aliso Canyon gas facility displaced thousands of residents who were forced to take refuge in Los Angeles.

The new rules dictate Southern California Gas Co. and other such companies conduct inspection of wells on a daily basis, using infrared leak detection technology. The companies will also be bound to measure gas flow as well as verify the mechanical integrity of wells. Natural gas facility operators have been asked to draft a risk management strategy, which would gauge the health of pipelines in order to prevent any future mishaps. The precautionary steps are part of a series endorsed by the governor. *Bidnesstc.com* [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - CORDOVA'S OIL SPILL RECOVERY INSTITUTE SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR SPILL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

January 1 - The deadline is Feb. 19 for the request for proposals from Cordova's Oil Spill Recovery Institute for spill science and technology outreach opportunity in how to become more experienced with technologies related to spill response. OSRI is seeking hands-on, graphical or other visual media to show the limitations, capabilities and risk-based considerations for various oil spill response options.

OSRI advises that the material should enable people to understand tradeoffs of response decisions, such as; in situ burning vs. dispersants vs. mechanical recovery capabilities, in situ burning vs. respiratory consequences of downwind communities, mechanical recovery capabilities, in situ burning vs. respiratory consequences of downwind communities, and more. *The Cordova Times* [Read more](#)

USA: TWO YEARS AFTER ELK RIVER CHEMICAL SPILL: REPORT TO SHOW SERIOUS UNRESOLVED WATER ISSUES REMAIN IN WEST VIRGINIA

January 6 - Two years after the Elk River chemical spill disaster that left 300,000 without access to safe, clean water, West Virginia continues to grapple with a host of water-related issues that are far from being resolved, according to a major new report to be issued at 12 p.m. (noon) EST Thursday (January 7, 2016) during a live phone-based news conference with full Q&A.

The report by Boston Action Research (BAR), a project of the Civil Society Institute, will focus on: prominent failures of privately owned water utilities in West Virginia; lack of corporate transparency with privatized water; the poor results of the West Virginia American Water (WVAW) response to the January 9 2014 Elk River chemical spill; West Virginia water rate hikes; and options for municipalizing the Charleston Regional Water System. The BAR report also puts the West Virginia water problems in the context of wider national and international trends. *Blackbird PR News* [Read more](#)

Note from Editor – This news item did not reach me in time to give you pre-advice of the live news conference. However, a streaming audio replay of this news event will be available as of 4 p.m. EST on January 7, 2016 at <http://www.CivilSocietyInstitute.org>

People in the news

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NAUTICAL INSTITUTE IS AWARDED OBE



Mr. Philip Wake OBE RD* MSc FNI has been appointed an Ordinary Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the UK's New Year's Honors' List for his services to the maritime industry.

Philip was elected a Fellow of The Nautical Institute in 1996, and became Chairman of the voluntary London Branch soon after. Having served in the Secretariat since November 1999, he became the Chief Executive of The Nautical Institute in May 2003. During his time as Chief Executive, The Nautical Institute has developed its reach as a professional membership organization, now serving members in 120 countries. The Nautical Institute continues to promote professionalism, safety and best practice to the industry as a whole, through a range of publications and free resources, including the Alert! Human element project, the Mariners' Alerting and Reporting Scheme (MARS) and The Navigator. It represents seafarers at the highest level, with consultative status at the IMO. The Dynamic Positioning (DP) Training Scheme, managed by The Nautical Institute as a benefit to the offshore industry, now accredits DP training centers worldwide and certifies tens of thousands of DPOs.

Philip Wake served at sea from Cadet to Chief Officer with Ellerman City Liners before coming ashore to a container consortium where he established a new commercial department. He became a Senior Consultant in shipping economics at Lloyd's Maritime Information Services (LMIS), and latterly was a Director of Clarkson Research. Philip's maritime career also includes service in the Royal Naval Reserve specializing in mine counter measures and naval control of shipping.

He is a member of Council of the RNLI; a Younger Brother of Trinity House, London; a Trustee of the CHIRP Charitable Trust and the Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society; and Chairman of the Great River Race. Through his membership of the Honorable Company of Master Mariners, he is a Foundation Governor and past Chairman of George Green's School in the Isle of Dogs, London and is Chairman of Governors at Putney High School, London. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

GETTING A BETTER BALANCE OF NEWS REPORTING IN THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

Your editor does his best to find interesting news from all over the world but it's not easy. Members and other readers are invited to help rectify the balance of world news reporting. News stories from North America, UK, Australia, etc. are much more accessible on the internet than reports from other parts of the world and especially from non-English-speaking countries.

If you are finding that there are no news reports from your part of the world, you can help to correct this. Your editor asks you to share information that will be of interest to our worldwide community.

... AND PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

By contributing articles and case histories for publication you can help ISCO achieve its objective of advancing response preparedness, professional development and competency. As the years go by, hard won knowledge and experience is lost as people retire or move on. The benefits of past learning and new R&D work both need to be widely shared.

Articles that pass on experienced-based know-how are particularly valuable – overcoming difficult challenges, innovating, relating what you did, why you did it that way, how you did it and what was achieved.

ISCO PRESENCE AT 2016 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

The ISCO Executive Committee and Members of ISCO Council are currently considering 2016 plans for ISCO representation at important conferences and events.

Currently, interest in securing support from ISCO has so far been received from the organisers of the following events –

Nigeria – Clean Niger Delta (March 2016)
Australia – Spillcon 2016 (May 2016)
Croatia – ADRIASPILLCON (May 2016)

USA- Clean Pacific (June 2016)
India – Oil Spill India (August 2016)

Most conference organisers are keen to give ISCO a free booth, speaking slot, discounts for ISCO members and/or other concessions in return for ISCO's support of events as a media sponsor, helping to raise awareness and achieve high attendance levels. Through the ISCO Newsletter, which is sent out every week to over 2,600 subscribers in more than 60 countries, ISCO is able to support events in a highly targeted way.

It just isn't possible for ISCO's President / Secretary / Membership Director to attend more than a very few of these events but thankfully some Members of ISCO Council have indicated their willingness to step up and help out – delegating staff to manning booths, helping increase membership and generally promoting the objectives of the organization. Other members who would be interested in combining attendance at least one of the listed events with a willingness to assist the organization are invited to contact the Secretary – john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

THE EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter has in the past published excellent serialised articles on such matters as inland spill response, aerial observation of oil spills, in-situ burning, etc. by respected experts including Dr Merv Fingas and Mark Francis. Your editor is currently looking for more interesting articles of this kind. If you think you can help, please get in touch. john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

Disseminating news about new technical developments is of value to our community. Corporate Members and others are invited to contribute articles.

TIMELY PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES

ISCO is grateful that most members pay their annual dues on time but unfortunately there are exceptions. All members are reminded that membership fees should be paid annually in advance on the date of the anniversary of the date on which you first joined the organization.

Currently, our Membership Director Mary Ann Dalglish is spending a considerable amount of time in chasing up overdue subscriptions. This task is made even more difficult in cases where invoices and reminders get bounced because contact details are no longer valid. If you have not received an invoice or payment reminder please contact Mary Ann at mrydetroit@aol.com without delay.

MEMBER PROFILES IN THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

Did you know that for a £185 contribution to ISCO funds you can have your corporate profile appear in the ISCO Newsletter. You get a full page with text and pictures to inform a highly targeted audience about your company and what you do. The rules are simple: The option is only available to paid-up members and any member is allowed only one entry per annum. No issue of the newsletter will ever contain more than one company profile. Content of your profile is subject to editorial approval in regard to suitability for publication. If interested, please contact john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

Science and technology

COATED MAGNETIC NANOPARTICLES USED TO PURIFY CONTAMINATED WATER

December 28 - Iranian researchers produced a special nanosorbent to eliminate environmental pollutions

Iranian researchers from Tarbiat Modarres University coated and modified the surface of magnetic nanoparticles to produce a special nanosorbent to eliminate environmental pollutions.

The nanosorbent can also be used in various industrial and agricultural sections to eliminate organic and inorganic compounds from polluted water after being mass produced.

Water contamination and obtaining optimum efficiency in purification of drinking water and industrial wastewater are among the most important concerns of human societies at the moment. Although there is high concentration of organic or metal compounds in industrial water, it is even more important to purify microbial pollution in drinking water, specially in distant areas where it is difficult to find drinking water.

The researchers modified and coated the surface of ferrous magnetic nanoparticles to produce a nanosorbent to eliminate organic and inorganic pollutants from water. This research tries to create stability by modifying the surface of nanoparticles, and also to make selective the sorbents by selecting the appropriate coating. *Pollution Online Newsletter* [Read more](#)

Publications

NEW OIL SPILL RESPONSE GUIDES LAUNCHED FOR UKCS

January 6 - Four new guides have been added to an information 'toolkit' to help offshore oil and gas operators implement their response should there be an oil spill in the North Sea. A UK industry group launched in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon incident in the U. S. Gulf of Mexico, proposed the development of a toolkit containing information on the different methods for countering spillages on the UK Continental Shelf. Another group led by Oil & Gas UK has worked on—and added to—the toolkit over the years. It is now complete, following the addition of four new Response Implementation Guides, or RIGs, to the four RIGs already in place. The new RIGs provide guidance on aerial monitoring of a spill, responding to it from the shoreline, the decanting of oil, as well as managing any waste that might arise from an accidental release. The RIGs that already existed in the toolkit cover the containment and recovery of a spill at sea and details on the application of dispersant on oil from the air, from a boat and from below the surface of the water.

"The aim of the guides is to provide support to onshore response staff in the event of an oil spill incident. They will also help discussions that would take place between the offshore operator involved and their response contractor on the implementation of their strategy for dealing with any spill," Mick Borwell, environment director at Oil & Gas UK, said. The toolkit is available to download as a suite of documents from the [Oil & Gas UK](#) website. *Handy Recovery* [Read more](#)

CONCAWE: HAZARD CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF PETROLEUM SUBSTANCES IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA - 2015 (REPORT NO. 9/15)

December 21 - This report updates Concawe's classification and labelling recommendations Report No. 10/14 to address the repeal of the Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD: 67/548/EC) and Dangerous Preparations Directive (DPD:1999/45/EC) which were repealed by EU Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging (EC 1272/2008, as amended) on 1st June 2015. *CONCAWE* [Download Document](#) (2.26 MB,pdf)

Links for recent issues of other publications (in alphabetical order)

[AMSA Aboard](#)
[ASME EED EHS Newsletter](#)
[Bow Wave](#)
[Cedre Newsletter](#)
[Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter](#)
[CROIERG Enews](#)
[EMSA Newsletter](#)
[Environmental Technology Online](#)
[IMO News Magazine](#)
[IMO Publishing News](#)
[Intertanko Weekly News](#)
[IPIECA eNews](#)
[JOIFF "The Catalyst](#)
[MOIG Newsletter](#)
[OCIMF Newsletter](#)
[Pollution Online Newsleter](#)
[Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter](#)
[SAC News](#)
[Technology Innovation News Survey](#)
[The Essential Hazm at News](#)

News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday
Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters
News from Cedre in Brittany, France
Latest Remediation and related technology news
Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group
News from the European Maritime Safety Agency
Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis
News from the International Maritime Organization
New and forthcoming IMO publications
International news for the oil tanker community
Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n
Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management
News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group
News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum
News for prevention & control professionals
Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm
Oil spill related and other news from Alaska
From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination
Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals

December 2015 issue
Most recent issue
Current issue
November 2015
Autumn 2015 issue
Current issue
January 2016 issue
November 2015 issue
No 4, 2015
December 2015
No 2 2016
February 12 issue
October 2015 issue
January 2016 issue
December 2015 issue
January 6 issue
Autumn 2015 issue
Dec.11 issue 2015
November 16-30, 2015
December 28 issue

Links for recent issues of other publications (continued)

[Transport Canada Newsletter](#)
[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)
[USA EPA Tech News & Trends](#)
[WMU Newsletter](#)

News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada
 Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater
 Contaminated site clean-up information
 News from the World Maritime University

Winter 2014 issue
 January 1, 2016 issue
 Fall 2015 issue
 December 2015 issue

Your editor depends on regular receipt of updated links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries may be discontinued.

Events

UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

COUNTRY	2016	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
SPAIN	Jan 27-29	OSPAR Marine Environment (INPUT) WG	Malaga
UK	Jan 27-28	IMarEst – Offshore Units & Application of MARPOL	London
JAPAN	Jan 28-29	PAJ Symposium 2016	Tokyo
UK	Feb 9	UK Spill Members' Meeting and Dinner	London
UK	Feb 15-19	IMO Pollution Prevention & Response S/C'ttee.	London
UK	Feb 17-18	Society of Maritime Industries Conference	Hull
QATAR	Feb 22-24	9th Oil Spill Response Officers Mtg & Planning C'tee	Doha
SAUDI ARABIA	Feb 22-24	PetroEnvironment 2016	Dammam
CANADA	Mar 23-24	8th Arctic Shipping Summit	Montreal
NIGERIA	Mar 29-31	Clean Niger Delta Conference	Abuja
JAPAN	April 7-8	NOWPAP 14th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting	Toyama
UK	April 18-22	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
UK N. Ireland	April TBA	ISAA Training Days 2016	Enniskillen
USA	April 27-29	APICOM Spring Meeting	Galveston, TX
AUSTRALIA	May 2-6	Spillcon 2016	Perth, WA
CROATIA	May 10-12	ADRIASPILLCON 2016	Opatija
UAE	May 17-18	Offshore Arabia Conference & Exhibition	Dubai
NETHERLANDS	May 24-26	Bon Agreement WG on Counter Pollution Activities	Scheveningen
USA	June 21-23	Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition	Seattle, WA
CANADA	July 7-9	AMOP Technical Seminar	Halifax
INDIA	August 11-12	Oil Spill India	Mumbai
UAE	October TBA	EI Middle East HSE Technical Forum	Abu Dhabi
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

New products and services

SEABIN: A NEW WAY TO CLEAN UP PORTS AND MARINAS



December 30 - A group of innovators from Spain have designed an automated rubbish bin that catches floating rubbish, oil, fuel and detergents. It is designed for floating docks in the water of marinas, private pontoons, inland waterways, residential lakes, harbors, water ways, ports and yacht clubs.

Marinas, ports and yacht clubs are the perfect place to start helping clean our oceans, says the group. There are no huge open ocean swells or storms, but winds and currents are constantly moving floating debris around and ports and marinas always have some pollution heavy areas based on predominant wind and current directions.

"By working with these marinas, ports and yacht clubs we can locate the Seabin in the perfect place and mother nature brings us the rubbish to catch it," says the group.

The Seabin is located at the water's surface and is plumbed into a shore based water pump on the dock. The water gets sucked into the Seabin, bringing all floating debris and floating liquids into it. The water then flows out through the bottom of the bin and up into the pump on the dock where there is the option of installing an oil/water separator so that clean water then flows back into the ocean. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

Job vacancies

EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY (EMSA)

Call for Applications EMSA/AD/2015/17 (Agency's Temporary Staff)
Post: EMSA/AD/2015/17 - Head of Unit C.1 'Pollution Response Services'
Directorate/Unit: Unit C.1 – Pollution Response Services
Type of post: Temporary agent post Grade : AD10 Location: Lisbon
Closing date for applications: 4 February 2016 [More info](#)

Equipment for sale

AEROSPACE RESOURCES UK: BRITTEN NORMAN ISLANDER BN2A-26 WITH EASA-CERTIFIED AERIAL SPRAY SYSTEM



Available immediately. 1973 MSN 334. New Annual and ARC. Airframe 9260 hrs; Engines 615/615 hrs; Propellers 178/0. This unique aircraft has been operating in the UK under EASA AOC conditions, is exceptionally well equipped and has been maintained to very high standards.

420 litre capacity variable rate spray system Spray rate variable > 40 litres per min * Adaptable nozzles for variable droplet size * Suitable for oil dispersants such as Slickgone and insecticides * New Annual and ARC by RGV Aviation * Easily converted back to pax configuration – 10 seats included * 4 seats with spray system installed * New paint 2013 * Recent undercarriage overhaul (APPH legs) *

For more detailed specification, maintenance records and sale price contact Aerospace Resources Ltd. Tel: +44 (0)20 8476 8650 Fax: +44(0)20 8770 2194 Web: www.resource.aero email: info@resource.aero

Company news

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ISCO MEMBER, SWIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES

'Swire Emergency Response is pleased to announce the continuation of our spill modelling partnership with RPS APASA through 2016. The partnership represents a commitment to the highest quality of preparedness and response for spill incidents. Through expert trajectory and fate modelling, analysis by RPS APASA, rapid mobilisation of key personnel and equipment, our clients are supported 24/7 during all operations. A one call activation provides for seamless engagement of the response team, including modellers, and direct delivery of critical information to those that need it without delay.' <http://www.swire-ers.com>

ISCO MEMBER, ALPHAMERS LTD. WINS INNOVATION AWARD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SECURITY BARRIER



In the picture: Capt. D. C. Sekhar of AlphaMERS receiving the Assocham SME innovation Excellence 2015 award from Honorable Union Minister Shri Shripad Naik.

AlphaMERS Ltd, a corporate member of ISCO and headed by Capt.Sekhar, council member from India, stated that AlphaMERS has developed a new design of floating security barrier. This barrier is designed to form a visual indication of no go waters and stop unwelcome intrusion by small speedboats. Besides stopping such boats, the barrier has additional features to damage and cripple the intruding boat. The objective of the barrier is to remove the surprise element of such boat intrusion and provide a breather to the facility to respond. The company has also designed a floating gate to enable controlled access through this barrier. Capt.Sekhar stated that such a barrier can be quite useful for critical installations located on coast, riverbanks and dam reservoirs.

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org