



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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AUSTRALIA: LATEST ON THE TIMOR SEA OIL RIG SPILL



November 3: The pictures were vivid and spectacular: a massive ball of flames engulfed the oil rig as it stood alone in the ocean. The public relations consultants hired by the oil company were swift and succinct with their message. "PTTEP Australasia reports the West Atlas rig and the Montara wellhead platform are on fire," said a statement issued about 3pm on Sunday.

Read the complete story at: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/crude-awakening-20091102-htht.html>

November 3: The operator of an oil rig on fire in the waters between Indonesia and Australia has said the entire structure is at risk of collapse. The warning comes as teams were set to embark on a fifth attempt to stop an oil leak on the rig that has developed into a slick threatening sea life across thousands of square kilometres. On Monday the platform's Thai operator, PTTEP, said that part of the rig had already collapsed onto the wellhead platform as specialist fire crews continued efforts to extinguish the blaze. Read more at: <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia-pacific/2009/11/200911323632156520.html>

November 3: The owners of the West Atlas rig in the Timor Sea will today again try and plug the well which has been leaking oil and gas for the past 10 weeks. The rig has also been on fire for the past two days and last night it was a giant burning beacon, with flames and smoke reaching hundreds of metres into the night sky. One side effect from the fierce fire is that it is burning off a lot of the oil that was previously leaking from the well into the sea. Read more at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/03/2731544.htm?section=business>

November 3: The fireball engulfing the West Atlas drill rig has been extinguished and the oil and gas leak fuelling the blaze finally stopped, more than 10 weeks after the environmental crisis in the Timor Sea began. Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson said a commission of inquiry and a commissioner would be announced before the end of the week.

See video at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/video/2009/nov/02/oil-leak-timor-sea>

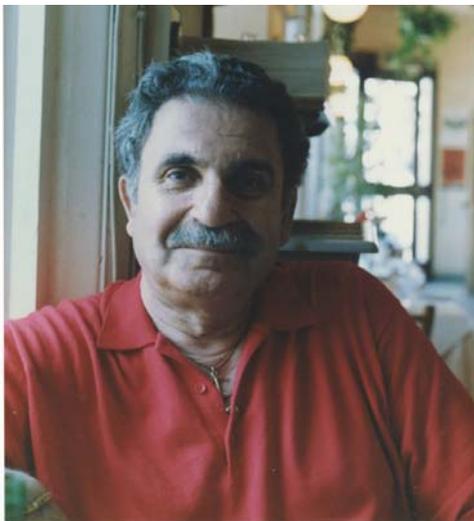
USA: AWARD OF R&D CONTRACT FOR RECOVERY OF HEAVY OIL ON SEA FLOOR



DETROIT, Michigan - Marine Pollution Control Corporation (MPC) announced today that it has been awarded a research and development contract by the United States Coast Guard to develop a proof of concept solution and a final design for a complete system for the recovery of heavy oil on the sea floor. The award supports MPC's proposal "The Evolution of Sunken Oil Recovery," which the Government considered one of the submissions "of highest technical merit," and will enable MPC to develop a system incorporating a manned submersible to facilitate "skimming" and pumping at increased depths.



The contract funds Phase I of a potential two phase project. Phase II would include building and testing a prototype unit. Awards for Phase II will be determined following the completion of Phase I. Completion target for Phase I is mid-2010 and for Phase II, late 2011.



"We're excited to have the opportunity to bring our ideas that much closer to reality," said David Usher, Chairman of MPC and senior advisor on the project. "We've assembled a terrific team, with Bill Hazel as our principal investigator, and we're ready to get to work!"

MPC has been involved in the development of a system using a manned submersible for some years and even conducted tests, using private funds, in 2006 & 2007.

The current configuration employs a submersible designed and built by SEAmagine Hydrospace Corporation of Claremont, California, the world's leading manufacturer two- and three-people one-atmosphere submersibles. MPC and SEAmagine have a joint development agreement and SEAmagine's President and CEO, Will Kohnen, will serve as the sub expert on the MPC design team.

Founded in Detroit 1967, Marine Pollution Control Corporation was conceived as a highly mobile, rapid-response spill clean-up company. A pioneer in the industry, it has evolved from the early years of oil pollution cleanup into a fully equipped and experienced company providing effective solutions to waste management, industrial services and spill response requirements throughout the environmental world.

For more info go to <http://www.marinepollutioncontrol.com> or contact Jeff Taylor, Marine Pollution Control Corporation, 313-849-2333, jtaylor@marinepollutioncontrol.com

UK: 'FIRE AND EVACUATION' IN CHANNEL TODAY



A major international maritime exercise took place in the Channel today.

The multi-agency exercise involved Coastguards and the emergency services from Britain and France.

Operation Manchex is a bi-annual test of the contingency plan developed to deal with major marine emergencies.

Manchex 2009 simulated a fire and an evacuation from a cross channel passenger ferry in the approaches to the Southwest Lane of the Dover Strait.

The maritime incident operations were co-ordinated from the Maritime and Coastal Agency (MCA) operations room at Dover Coastguard. A firefighting team from the Maritime Incident Response Group (MIRG) were airlifted to the vessel. Casualty reception

centres were set up ashore and emergency services undertook hazardous chemical decontamination of passengers.

For more information and to listen to audio commentary go to:

http://www.kentonline.co.uk/kentonline/news/2009/november/3/fire_in_channel_today.aspx

ITALY: UPDATE - 'TOXIC' SHIPWRECK TURNS OUT TO BE RED HERRING

Italian prosecutors [searching for the wreck of a ship](#) allegedly scuttled by the mafia with toxic waste on board in 1992 say the vessel they surveyed this week in deep waters off the coast of Calabria turned out instead to be a passenger steamship sunk by a German submarine in 1917. Read the complete article at http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ffbac692-c573-11de-8193-00144feab49a.html?nclick_check=1

US EPA: NOVEMBER 2009 ISSUE OF TECHDIRECT

New technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and ground water.

Upcoming Live Internet Seminars – Topics include vapour intrusion site issues; munitions response; mercury basics and response; attenuation of chlorine organics; phytotechnologies; green remediation strategies; R&D funding opportunities; CERCLA 103, EPCRA and CAA 112; alternative countermeasures for oil spills; organic liquids in site subsurfaces. [Note from editor: regrettably, news of these internet seminars did not arrive before the publication deadline for last week's Newsletter. You will have missed some – perhaps they will be repeated?]

New Documents and Web Resources – new cost and performance info on clean-up technologies; federal remediation technologies – annual summary of activities; plans to develop remediation goals for Dioxin in soil; groundwater assessment and delineation at hazardous waste sites; guidelines for methamphetamine lab clean-up; guidelines for statistical analysis of groundwater monitoring data; New documents on EUGRIS, the European platform for contaminated soil and water information; technical report on uncontaminated topsoil; nanotechnology research projects.

Conferences and Symposia – Green Remediation (Copenhagen, Nov 9-10); Brownfields Conference (New Orleans, Nov 16-18); Environmental Technology, Washington DC, Dec 1-3; Design and Construction at Hazardous Waste Sites, Philadelphia, April 21-23, 2010; Management of Soil, Groundwater and Sediment, Salzburg, Austria, Sept 22-24, 2010.

For more information, visit <http://clu-in.org/techdirect>

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