



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
Issue 286, 31 May 2011

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ISCO aims to raise worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, to promote technical development and professional competency, and to provide a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

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WOW II WRECKS OF THE WORLD II



*Evaluating & Addressing Potential Underwater Threats
Washington DC – June 6-7, 2011*

News

ISCO AGM HELD AT IOSC, PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

Highlights –

- ISCO's Professional Recognition initiative welcomed and commitments made to complete on outstanding work needed for full implementation.
- ISCO makes commitment to supporting the campaign for extending response contractor immunity currently available in USA under OPA 90. This was agreed upon following a discussion during which it was disclosed that many contractors that responded to the DWH are being sued. An article about this matter will soon be published in the ISCO Newsletter.
- New members introduced from USA, Egypt, Turkey, China, Canada, Sweden, Ghana and Uruguay.
- Chinese language edition of the ISCO Newsletter to be launched by ISCO Committee Member, Li Guobin
- 2012 ISCO AGM to be held in London at the Interspill Conference



In the picture, L to R, ISCO President David Usher, H. Trygve Enger of SEACOR and ISCO Secretary John McMurtrie

The ISCO booth in the Exhibition Hall attracted a large number of visitors who were welcomed by John McMurtrie (ISCO Secretary) and Mary Ann Dalglish (ISCO Membership Director). Visitors also participated in a draw for a bottle of special vintage single cask Glendronach Malt Whisky.

The prize was won by H. Trygve Enger of SEACOR. Others were awarded a trial subscription to the ISCO Newsletter.

X PRIZE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FINALIST TEAMS IN THE \$1.4 MILLION WENDY SCHMIDT OIL CLEANUP X CHALLENGE

The X PRIZE Foundation, the leading nonprofit organization solving the world's Grand Challenges by creating and managing large-scale, global incentivized competitions, today announced the 10 finalist teams that will move forward to the final phase of the \$1.4 Million Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE. The 10 finalist teams were announced at the International Oil Spill Conference taking place from May 23-26 in Portland, OR. The competition is designed to inspire entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists worldwide to develop innovative, rapidly deployable, and highly efficient methods of capturing crude oil from the ocean surface. The Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE was launched in July 2010 in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"These 10 teams have developed technology that can improve the efficiencies of oil spill cleanup to minimize the impact to the environment," said Wendy Schmidt, president of The Schmidt Family Foundation and title sponsor of the Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE. "The purpose of this challenge is to find real solutions to a dire problem, and I am hopeful that these teams will deliver the innovative oil spill cleanup technology we so desperately need."

During Phase I of the competition, teams across the globe submitted their ideas to clean up oil spills quickly and effectively. Judges evaluated proposals based on the following criteria:

- technical approach and commercialization plan;
- no negative environmental impact;
- scalability of and ability to deploy technology;
- cost and human labor of implementation; and
- improvement of oil recovery rate and efficiency over today's baseline booms and skimmers.

The 10 finalist teams for the Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE that will move forward to the competition's Phase II Field Testing are:

- **CRUCIAL, USA** – Team leader Wally Landry and team members Richard Forbes, Debbie Alberto, and Jody Trapani work for Crucial, Inc., a worldwide distributor and manufacturer of oil spill response and environmental control products and equipment.
- **Elastec, USA** – Team leader Don Johnson and team members Donnie Wilson, Jeff Cantrell, Stewart Ellis, Charles Storey, Brian Orr, and The Glosten Associates Inc. are part of Elastec, an oilfield service company with a reputation for innovation in machinery design.
- **Koseq, Netherlands** – Team leader Tom Achterberg and team member Gert Kampers are part of Koseq, a company that designs and produces oil recovery equipment.
- **Lamor, Finland** – Team leader Jari Ahoranta and team members Fred Larsen, Rasmus Guldbrand, Rune Høgstrem, and John Kolonyi are part of Lamor, a company known for developing new concepts, technologies methods, and products for efficient oil spill response in various environments.
- **NOFI, Norway** – Team leader Dag Nilsen and team members Øystein Woie, Tor Kristian Fagerheim, and Birgit Pedersen are representing NOFI, an oil spill control developer specializing in oil boom technology.
- **OilShaver, Norway** – Team leader Ingvar Huse and team members Terje Hemnes, Jorunn Sanden, and Jarle Einar Gundersen have worked together to develop OilShaver based on their knowledge of trawl technologies for fisheries.
- **OilWhale, Finland** – Team leader Markku Järvinen and team members Markku Lehtinen, Heikki Järvinen, Sampsa Veijalainen, and Aki Veijalainen have worked together to develop the OilWhale project using their environmental innovation and invention expertise.
- **PPR, USA** – Team leader Rich Morgan and team members Kevin Kennedy and Bruce Thiffault are members of the marine business community and developed their concept, PPR, in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- **Voraxial, USA** – Team leader Laura Di Bella and team members Alberto Di Bella and John Di Bella are part of Enviro Voraxial Technology, a company that developed their oil spill technologies in the aftermath of the Valdez Oil Spill.
- **Vor-Tek, USA** – Team leader Ashley Day and team member Fred Giovannitti are environmentally conscious artists and entrepreneurs who developed a passive, environmentally safe system to remove hazardous particles, and now oil, from the ocean surface. [Read more](#)

In forthcoming issues of the Newsletter we will publish more information about the various entries to the competition.

USA: DEFENDANTS IN OIL SPILL LITIGATION SEEK TO HAVE GROUPS OF CLAIMS DISMISSED

May 26 - In the first substantive hearing of the consolidated litigation over last year's Gulf of Mexico oil disaster, corporate defendants told U.S. District Court Judge Carl Barbier Thursday that claims for economic damage, claims by first responders who got sick from cleaning up the oil, and suits by environmental advocacy groups should be dismissed.

The hearing marked the first attempt to sort through how laws such as the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Clean Water Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, maritime law and state law interact.

If BP and the other companies that played a role in last year's explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and 86-day undersea oil gusher are successful in their motions to dismiss, it would gut the litigation, since most of the claims filed in court deal with economic losses.

News (continued)

At the conclusion of the four-hour status conference and hearing, Barbier did not indicate how quickly he would rule.

Andrew Langan, attorney for BP, which has been designated as the "responsible party" in the case because it held the lease on the Macondo well, told the court that people who believe they suffered economic losses in the oil disaster must go through the Gulf Coast Claims Facility before filing suit. The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 is very clear: anyone harmed by the spill must present a claim to the responsible party, and that claim must be denied before an aggrieved party can sue in court, Langan said. "They're not supposed to be in court right now," he said.

Langan said that claims should be dismissed without prejudice so that disgruntled parties are free to come back into court if the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, the Kenneth Feinberg-administered fund that is handing out \$20 billion from BP to those who suffered losses because of the oil spill, can't solve their problems. [Read more](#)

USA: BOEMRE AND NOAA TO INCREASE COORDINATION, COLLABORATION ON OFFSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

May 25 - As the International Oil Spill Conference kicks off in Portland, Ore. today, co-sponsors the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that they have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase their coordination and collaboration to ensure the environmentally sound offshore energy development.

"BOEMRE and NOAA have enjoyed a long and productive relationship, but there is room for improvement. We can and will broaden and enhance the communication, cooperation and collaboration between our agencies," said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. "This MOU creates new mechanisms to ensure the early and close coordination of BOEMRE and NOAA science and agency priorities to promote stronger environmental stewardship and stimulate greater efficiency in developing and implementing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy policy and conservation."

"This agreement improves how we coordinate and collaborate to ensure energy resources are developed in an environmentally sound manner that protects marine life and ecosystems under our respective authorities," said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "We look forward to continuing to work with BOEMRE to ensure NOAA science informs offshore energy development and oil spill response." [Read more](#)

The MOU is available for viewing at: http://www.boemre.gov/ooc/pdfs/MOU_BOEMRE_NOAA_May2011.pdf

AUSTRALIA: NEW BODY TO REGULATE OFFSHORE OIL WELLS

May 25 - A new national regulator is to be set up in response to the massive Montara oil spill off Western Australia.

Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson says the new measure will help ensure the operating standards of Australia's offshore petroleum industry are the best and safest in the world.

Mr Ferguson was introducing a legislative package on Wednesday that will implement the government's response to the report of the Montara commission of inquiry and a Productivity Commission review of how the oil and gas industry is regulated.

The Montara inquiry, which followed the 74-day oil and gas spill into the Timor Sea in 2009, recommended a single independent regulator to look after safety, well integrity and environmental management.

"The existing regulatory arrangements are complex, disjointed and involve inconsistent administration, including regulatory duplication across governments," Mr Ferguson said. [Read more](#)

UK: CHIEF NUCLEAR INSPECTOR PUBLISHES INTERIM 'LESSONS LEARNT' REPORT

May 18 - An interim assessment of the implications of the nuclear crisis in Japan concludes there is no need to curtail the operations of nuclear plants in the UK but lessons should be learnt.

The UK's Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, [Mike Weightman](#), today publishes a report, requested by the UK Government, in which he calls for action to be taken to learn from events at Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station.

His report identifies 25 recommended areas for review - by either industry, the Government or regulators - to determine if sensible and appropriate measures can further improve safety in the UK nuclear industry. These include reviews of the layout of UK power plants, emergency response arrangements, dealing with prolonged loss of power supplies and the risks associated with flooding.

The 26th recommendation calls for plans to be published by the middle of June detailing how each of these 25 matters will be addressed. [Read more](#) [Download the report](#) [Thanks to JOIFF and ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for link]

JAPAN: FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR ACCIDENT UPDATE LOG – UPDATE FROM IAEA – MAY 12-18

On 17 May 2011, TEPCO provided a status report against the TEPCO "Roadmap". Progress has been made during the last month since the issuing of the Roadmap on 17 April 2011. While the basic policy and targets defined in the Roadmap remain, several changes were made to account for new information obtained and progress made to date.

[Download the complete update report](#)

CANADA: GEOTECHNICAL AUGER MISSES 24" CRUDE PIPE LINE

A near miss safety alert report from Enform, Canada - During the course of constructing 22kms of all weather road parallel to a pipeline Right of Way (ROW), a contractor narrowly missed a 24" crude oil pipeline by 1.9 meters with a geotechnical auger unit. This near hit had the potential for serious injuries or fatalities. [Read this Safety Alert](#) [Thanks to pcjr of Hazmat 101 Group]

Because of your editor's absence from office attending IOSC our international news coverage has been curtailed this week.

People in the news

OBITUARY: MR. YOSHIO SASAMURA



Kyokai.

Mr. Sasamura is greeted by IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos at the World Maritime Day reception, September 2008

Mr. Yoshio Sasamura of Japan, a veteran of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and a major contributor to its work over many decades, has died. He was 84 and had been battling with cancer.

In a long and illustrious career, Mr. Sasamura dedicated more than 50 years' service to improving maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment.

A graduate of Tokyo University's Department of Engineering and Naval Architecture, Mr. Sasamura joined the IMO Secretariat in 1964 after a career of some 15 years as an engineer and a surveyor with the Japanese classification society Nippon Kaiji

Six years later he was appointed Director of IMO's Marine Science and Technology Division and subsequently became Director, first of the Organization's Marine Environment Division and, latterly, its Maritime Safety Division. In 1987, he was appointed Assistant Secretary-General.

After leaving the IMO Secretariat in 1989, he was appointed technical adviser to the Japan Shipbuilding Research Association and, in this capacity, served until 2008 as a member of the Japanese delegation to IMO. He was also the Secretary of the Tokyo MOU on Port State Control from its beginning, in 1994, until 2007.

Among his many achievements, which included an influential involvement in the development of the 1966 Load Lines Convention, the 1969 Tonnage Measurement Convention and the 1974 SOLAS Convention, it will be for his work in the establishment of the 1973 MARPOL Convention and its subsequent Protocol of 1978 that he will perhaps be best remembered.

That took place at a time when oil tankers were growing exponentially in size, with the birth of what was effectively a new type of ship, the Very Large Crude Carrier; and when the threat that these giant ocean carriers could pose to the environment was becoming only too apparent. MARPOL emerged from that period as the bedrock on which the environmental credentials of the shipping industry were founded and so it remains today, albeit much revised, updated and expanded.

In 1992, he was awarded the International Maritime Prize.

Commenting on Mr. Sasamura's passing, IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos said, "Few people have played such a dominant role in the work of IMO as Mr. Sasamura. His experience, knowledge and deep understanding of the issues won him universal admiration, even from those who may have espoused a different viewpoint, while his skill as a negotiator often cleared the way for solutions acceptable to all parties."

People in the news (continued)

"He will also be remembered fondly for his sense of humour, even in the most difficult situations. His interventions would often produce a note of levity that served to diffuse any tension and allow the discussion to move on to new areas and different dimensions, usually to great effect overall."

"He was truly a legend of IMO and a great servant of both the Organization and of shipping."

A memorial service for Mr. Sasamura will be held at the Anglican-Episcopalian Church in Tokyo on 28 May and his funeral will take place the following day.

CAPTAIN RODERICK WALKER, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (RETIRED), IS JOINING O'BRIEN'S AS MANAGER, CONSULTING SERVICES

Walker joins O'Brien's after 30 years on active duty in the US Coast Guard where he served in numerous challenging positions of increasing authority and responsibility. Walker most recently served as Commander, National Strike Force/Commanding Officer, National Strike Force Coordination Center, where he was in charge of supervising, equipping, training and deploying more than 200 incident management response experts to oil and/or hazardous materials spill incidents, national special security events and natural disasters world-wide. Walker recently served as Chief of Staff to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



Other roles filled by Walker include Deputy Commander/Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, Sector San Diego, CA; where he guided search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, commercial vessel safety, port security, federal maritime security, and federal on-scene coordination for pollution response in a military strategic port. He also served as Executive Officer, Marine Safety Office, Port Arthur, TX where he executed maritime safety, security and waterways management oversight activities for a port that is home to 25% of the nation's oil refineries and 80 petrochemical and liquefied natural gas facilities, amongst other positions.

A 1981 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree, Walker's career also included multiple Coast Guard field and staff tours including assistant department head, contingency planner, department head, branch and section chief. Walker later earned a Master's Degree from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, CA.

Technology

EXPERT DISCOVERS SIMPLE METHOD OF DEALING WITH HARMFUL RADIOACTIVE IODINE

Iodine radioisotopes are produced by [fission](#) of uranium fuel in a nuclear reactor. Radioactive iodine is of concern because it is highly mobile in the environment and selective uptake by the thyroid gland can pose a significant cancer risk following long term exposure.

Furthermore, iodine-129, which is a type of radioactive iodine, has an extremely long half life of 15.7 million years, so is one of the most significant long term hazards faced by the population due to its emission during the geological [disposal of nuclear waste](#).

Professor Neil Hyatt, from the University's [Department of Materials Science and Engineering](#), has now found a way of locking up iodine radioisotopes in a durable, solid material suitable for ultimate disposal, like lead iodovanadinite ($Pb_5(VO_4)_3I$). The research, which was published in the Journal of Nuclear Materials, demonstrates how his simple, inexpensive and rapid method can be done at atmospheric pressure.

Professor Hyatt and his team created a solid material for immobilisation of iodine with the formula $Pb_5(VO_4)_3I$, by heating a mixture of lead iodide, lead oxide and vanadium oxide.

Previously, this has only been achieved using high pressure and a sealed container, because iodine is volatilised at high temperature. However, using the knowledge that vanadium is a good absorber of microwaves at 2.45 GHz - the frequency used in domestic microwave ovens - the team were able to heat the mixture of chemicals in a microwave oven to produce $Pb_5(VO_4)_3I$ in about three minutes.

The key to the method's success is that $Pb_5(VO_4)_3I$ is a poor absorber of 2.45 GHz microwaves, so once this is formed, the sample cannot absorb microwaves, so the temperature does not get high enough for the iodine to volatilise.

Iodine-131 was the harmful gas emitted from the Fukushima power plant in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami last month, and was a significant contributor to the health effects from open-air atomic bomb testing in the 1950s, and was also emitted during the Chernobyl disaster.

It is hoped the new research will reduce the public health impact associated with the release of radioactive iodine to the environment by providing a simple and inexpensive method of immobilisation in a solid material, which could be rapidly deployed in an accident scenario.

[Read more](#) [View the full research paper](#)



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 28 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Member of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#)

KNOWLEDGE OF WATER-IMMISCIBLE SYSTEMS (CHAPTER 28)

Before reviewing knowledge of the relevance of oil and emulsion viscosities to their natural dispersion, dispersant-induced dispersion and mechanical recovery, I now review knowledge relevant to changes in viscosity as emulsions age on calm warm seas, shorelines or in storage tanks after recovery.

Such knowledge accumulation has arisen because of interest in the stability of a growing number of emulsion-based commercial products. As reviewed earlier, interaction between droplets produces aggregates which internally immobilise the continuous phase giving rise to increased viscosity as measured at low shear rates, while at higher shear rates the aggregates are disrupted with a decrease in measured viscosity and an effective increase in ϕ to $f_s\phi$ because the continuous phase previously trapped within the aggregates is now released, the precise value of f_s depending on the number of droplets previously in the aggregates, droplet size, droplet double-layer thickness and the magnitude of the disrupting shear rate. However, when droplet coalescence occurs it produces a gradual increase in mean droplet size and accompanying change in the limits of the droplet size distribution and thus it is possible to calculate the decrease in viscosity from comparing its associated droplet size data with that of the fresh emulsion in any given case.

This procedure is based on the Newtonian contribution to viscosities measured at infinite shear η_{∞} which arises from interaction between droplets of mean diameter d_m at a mean separation distance of a_m such that further increase in shear rate produces no further decrease in the contribution from non-Newtonian viscosity, this distance being given by the equation $a_m = d_m \{(\phi_{\max}/\phi) - 1\}$. The procedure then plots the viscosity data for both the fresh and aged emulsion to show that a_m influences η_{∞}/η_0 ; that both sets of data follow the same curve; and that the only aging process which exerts a measurable effect on viscosity decrease is the progressive increase in d_m . The procedure then calculates the rate of droplet coalescence C_g from the observed change in the number of droplets per unit volume of emulsion (related to d_m) over sufficient days using a Coulter counter, the coalescence rate then being calculated by the equation $N_t = N_0 \exp(-C_g t)$ where N_t is the number of droplets/ml of emulsion at time t after formation and N_0 is the corresponding number in the freshly prepared emulsion.

Typical results are that after about 70 days aging the upper limit of droplet size distribution does not exceed $5\mu\text{m}$ with at least 80% of the droplets having diameters $\leq 1.5\mu\text{m}$. However, many emulsions exhibit an initially rapid coalescence before a slower rate is maintained for the remainder of the aging process, this initial rate being generally found only in emulsions containing the smallest, most quickly coalescing droplets, the presence of which can explain why some emulsions can have differing viscosities for apparently the same d_m . Again, while coalescence is spontaneous, it requires activation energy E which depends on droplet charge, the nature of the stabilising layer, and the rupture and drainage of the inter-droplet film of continuous phase, the relationship between activation energy E and the temperature-dependence of coalescence being the equation: $d_t^3 = d_0^3 + 8kT\phi_t/\pi\eta_0 \exp(-E/RT)$, all symbols having their usual significance.

Thus, we see that the rheological knowledge underlying the manufacture of commercial emulsions is applicable and has been applied to the water-in-oil emulsions inadvertently created by natural wave- or pump-induced agitation of the separate phases of oil and water; that such application shows why some crude oils and products do not form water-in-oil emulsions; that others differ in stability once formed; that the viscosity of fresh oil is increased by emulsion formation; that viscosity reduces with aging towards breakage to separate phases; that the emulsions of some oils are stable enough to require intervention to break them and that such intervention requires the forceful admixture of demulsifiers and/or the application of heat.

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

Publications

PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS): FACT SHEET ON THREE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are chemicals that do not break down easily in the environment, tend to accumulate as they move up the food chain, and may be harmful to people and wildlife. Between 1998 and 2001, the United States signed two international treaties and one executive agreement to reduce the production and use of POPs and to regulate the trade and disposal of them. President Bush signed and submitted the two treaties to the Senate for advice and consent. If the Senate consents by a two-thirds majority, and if Congress passes legislation that would be needed to implement the treaties and the

Publications (continued)

executive agreement in the United States, then the treaties could be ratified and the agreements would become binding U.S. law. Two U.S. statutes are inconsistent with the agreements: the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which governs production and use of chemicals in U.S. commerce, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which regulates the sale and use of pesticides within the United States. Proposals to amend these statutes were considered but not enacted in the 107th, 108th, 109th, and 111th Congresses. S. 847 in the 112th Congress would revise TSCA to permit implementation of the agreement, but treaty implementation is one relatively small provision in a bill that would comprehensively amend TSCA.

[Order a copy of this report](#)

Training

PORTUGAL: MARINE ECOTOXICOLOGY AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF OILS AND HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES SPILLS

SETAC Summer School Course, 13 - 17 June 2011 Advanced Course of ICBAS & CIIMAR, University of Porto, Portugal

This advanced course that will be held from the **13th to the 17th June 2011** at the University of Porto, Portugal, will cover emerging issues in Marine Ecotoxicology and Risk Assessment of oils and hazardous and noxious substances spills. It will provide updated knowledge and training on new and more classic approaches for assessment of ecotoxicological and ecological effects, long-term monitoring, and ecological risk assessment of marine and estuarine pollution, with emphasis on chemical spills. Case studies using integrated approaches in tropical, temperate and Northern regions will be discussed, also addressing the difficulties introduced by confounding factors such as historical pollution, ecosystem dynamics, and alterations resulting from global climate changes. This course is especially dedicated to PhD and MSc students in the area of Marine and Environmental Sciences, scientists and other professionals from Academia, Government and Business involved in the management, conservation and sustainability of marine and estuarine ecosystems. [More info](#)

UK: SALVAGE LAW & PRACTICE SEMINAR

London, 30 June – 1 July, 2011 - A fully-accessible two day training seminar delivered by experts with direct and current experience of dealing with salvage and wreck removal cases. [More info](#)

Events

POLAND: 9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MARINE NAVIGATION AND SAFETY OF SEA TRANSPORTATION (TRANSNAV 2011)

Gdynia Maritime University, 15-17 June, 2011 [Download the programme](#)

UAE: HEALTH, SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT FORUM 2011

Abu Dhabi, 12-15 June, 2011 - ADIPEC HSRM Forum gathers the region's health, safety and risk management champions for 4 days of intensive discussions, debates and dialogue on the most pressing issues of today - including safe oil and gas production, safety culture maturation and ensuring that safety management is done right the first time to SAVE MONEY and more importantly to SAVE LIVES. The forum will put focus on leadership, expertise, innovation, case studies and vision in effectively implementing health, safety and risk management, call for higher industry standards and push for new blueprints in addressing the new challenges of modern day oil and gas operations. [More info](#)

IRELAND: ISAA ALL-IRELAND ACCREDITATION SCHEME STEERING GROUP MEETING IN DUBLIN

This meeting will take place at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday 21 June at the Coast Guard HQ in Leeson Lane, Dublin. The Notice of Meeting and Agenda has been sent out to all stakeholders. If you didn't receive it, please contact the ISCO Secretary.

SEACOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES REBRANDING AS SEACOR RESPONSE AT THE INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE, 2011

SEACOR Environmental Services International (SESI), a global leader in emergency preparedness and response solutions, announced that effective today it will be known as "SEACOR Response" to better define itself to customers as a multi-disciplined emergency response provider.

"Our company's foundation has been rooted in providing oil spill response services and over the years we have added core competencies such as HAZMAT response, fire fighting and technical rescue, fire engineering, emergency response training and consultancy. In association with our sister aviation services company, Era Helicopters, we also have the capability to offer helicopter Search and Rescue (SAR) and Emergency Medical Services," said Neil Challis, President of SEACOR Response.

[Read more](#)

FINLAND'S LAMOR CORPORATION SELECTED AS A TOP TEN FINALIST IN THE WENDY SCHMIDT OIL CLEANUP X CHALLENGE

The judging panel of The Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE has selected Lamor Corporation to continue to the next phase as one of the top ten finalist teams. The competition is designed to inspire entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists worldwide to develop innovative, rapidly deployable, and highly efficient methods of capturing crude oil from the ocean surface. The Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE was launched in July 2010 in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lamor (Larsen Marine Oil Recovery) Corporation offers solutions for optimal oil spill response and recovery. With offices, staff and equipment strategically located around the world, Lamor is able to deploy to the scene rapidly and effectively to best serve the environmental needs of corporations, the public and ecosystems. The company develops, manufactures, and supplies best available technology (BAT) oil spill recovery equipment and services. Included in its portfolio of solutions, Lamor offers contingency planning, risk assessments, equipment maintenance and service coupled with training.

"To be selected as one of the top ten finalists is truly an honor for us. We continuously strive to find the most innovative and effective oil clean-up equipment and solutions that can operate in all climatic conditions. The Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE is an excellent platform and catalyst to spur innovations in research and development programs for oil spill recovery operations. No matter who ultimately wins this challenge, again I must say that I am honored on behalf of Lamor," said Fred Larsen, CEO, Lamor Corporation.

The Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE was created by the X PRIZE Foundation. Founded in 1995, it is the leading non-profit organization solving the world's greatest challenges through creating and managing large-scale, high-profile, incentivized prize competitions that stimulate investment in research and development worth far more than the prize itself. It motivates and inspires brilliant innovators from all disciplines to leverage their intellectual and financial capital.

The X PRIZE Foundation motivates and inspires brilliant innovators from all disciplines and socio-economic sectors to endow their intellectual and financial capital for the benefit of humanity. It conducts competitions in four Prize Groups: Education & Global Development; Energy & Environment; Life Sciences; and Exploration. Past prizes include the \$10 million Ansari X PRIZE for sending the world's first private vehicle into space and back; and the \$10 million Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE for creating safe, affordable, production-capable vehicles that exceed 100 MPG or energy equivalent (MPGe). Active prizes include the \$30 million Google Lunar X PRIZE, the \$10 million Archon Genomics X PRIZE, and the \$1.4 million Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE.

"I am sponsoring the Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE to provide a public incentive for research and development into breakthrough technologies that can significantly improve our response to future oil spills in our precious ocean water resources. The X PRIZE Foundation exists to spur innovation in a unique way, bringing together scientists, technologists and inventors with leaders in industry and government to help introduce problem solving technologies to the marketplace with mechanisms for rapid deployment. Anyone who wants to change the world by solving a problem should get to know the X PRIZE Foundation," said Wendy Schmidt.

Wendy Schmidt is President of The Schmidt Family Foundation which strives to advance the development of clean energy and support the wiser use of natural resources. She is founder of the foundation's 11th Hour Project and of Climate Central. Her other work, at ReMain Nantucket, focuses on generating a model for smart community downtown development on the island. With her husband, Eric Schmidt, Wendy created the Schmidt Marine Science Research Institute in 2009 to provide future opportunities aboard research vessels for urgent ocean studies. She serves on the boards of The Natural Resources Defense Council, The California Academy of Sciences, GRIST, and The Nantucket Dreamland Foundation.

DECONTAMINATION OF SURFACES POLLUTED BY RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS



Mopping up radioactive waste is messy work. Ever since an earthquake and a tsunami crippled Japanese nuclear power plants in March, cleanup crews have been **struggling to decontaminate** the area. Typically, this kind of work is performed with low-tech tools: soap, water, pads, brushes and old-fashioned elbow grease.

Enter Hawaiian entrepreneur Hank Wuh, who donated 100 five-gallon pails of his company's hazardous waste cleaner, **DeconGel**, to the cleanup effort. Japanese officials are using the cleaner on everything from concrete walkways and parking lots to schools and retail shops, both inside and outside of the exclusion zone.

DeconGel starts off as a liquid that can be brushed or sprayed onto contaminated surfaces. It dries to form a gel that encapsulates microscopic bits of radioactive or otherwise hazardous waste, including PCBs, beryllium, mercury and chromium. The gel can then be peeled off, rolled up and thrown away.

The discovery of DeconGel was accidental. Wuh is the CEO of a Skai Ventures, a Honolulu-based venture capital firm and technology accelerator. Late one night in 2006, the firm's researchers got a little sloppy with an experiment. They were working with a gel that dripped from the lab table onto the floor. When they peeled it off the next morning, the floor beneath was "absolutely pristine, completely clean and white," recalls Wuh. They tried to scrub the surrounding area to get it to match, but couldn't.

"That's when the wheels started to turn," Wuh says. "We knew we had something interesting there."

Years of research and development transformed that initial puddle of goo into DeconGel. In 2009, Wuh launched a company called CBI Polymers to market and sell the substance. So far, it's been used to scour everything from shipyards to meth labs to Hungarian villages that were inundated with toxic alkali sludge during an industrial accident last year. The company has attracted about 75 clients worldwide, including power plants, utilities, research facilities and hospitals. Customers also include the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Energy; the latter provided funding, testing and technical advice. CBI is now working to produce a family of related products with similar properties but different applications, including a graffiti-removal polymer, coatings to boost the anti-corrosive properties of paint, and a substance that helps restore the surfaces of historic buildings. [Read more](#)

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WENDY SCHMIDT OIL CLEANUP X CHALLENGE FINALISTS

For following issues of the ISCO Newsletter X Challenge finalists are invited to send in information about their entries to the competition. Submissions should be not more than one page and can include photographs.

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