



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 314, 19 December 2011

info@spillcontrol.org <http://www.spillcontrol.org>



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS



INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY
Spill Response Supplies and
Services

QUICK FINDER

[Consultants](#)

[Equipment & Materials](#)

[Response Organisations](#)

[Training Providers](#)

Clicking on any entry will display the advertiser's website.

Reach your Market

Entries are **FREE** for ISCO Corporate Members. For non-members one entry is just GBP 500 per annum.

Banners should be submitted in JPG format, size approx. 490 x 120 pixels. Each entry in the directory will be hyperlinked so that one click will immediately display your own website.

A one time only charge of £20 will be made for uploading each entry or, if you haven't a ready-to-upload banner, we can create one for you for only £70. Contact Bob Gentle at - bobgentle@northeastcreative.com

**HAVE THIS NEWSLETTER
DELIVERED DIRECTLY
TO YOUR DESK**

[Join the ISCO Newsletter Mailing List](#)

BECOME A MEMBER OF ISCO

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.

There are many benefits for you in becoming a member and joining ISCO is not expensive.

[Application Form](#)

News

ISCO WINS PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT IMO

Last week ISCO received a written confirmation that the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization has approved the award of full consultative status. ISCO received provisional consultative status at IMO four years ago and, since this time, has been actively representing the international spill response community at meetings of the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the IMO OPRC-HNS Working Group.



In the picture: Mr David Usher, President and Founder Member of ISCO

ISCO President, David Usher writes "It's my honor and pleasure to announce IMO's granting of full consultative status to the International Spill Control Organization. It was in 1984, after being successful in developing the Spill Control Association of America, that we felt the need to be able to communicate your concerns to the maritime environmental world through IMO. My esteemed colleague, John McMurtrie, and I

went forward with the idea of giving to the environmental communities of the world the knowledge of discovery and resolutions of spills of consequence. We are honored to bring to the world communities the constant development of positive answers to the deterrence and mitigation of polluting spills. You as readers of this communiqué are very important to bringing forth and acting on the needs of our society. Please join us actively by contributing your thoughts and financial support to ISCO's efforts.

In 1929, my father as a young man was considered a liquid junk man¹. Today doing what he did then would earn him the honorable recognition as an environmentalist. I close with this thought, which I've always felt is one of the best examples of "better things for better living."

¹ Editor's note: David's father was a pioneer of waste oil collection and recycling. As a youngster David Usher began his career in oil pollution control working with his father's company, Usher Oil.

ISCO Secretary, John McMurtrie commented – "In the ISCO Newsletter of 17th December 2007 it was announced that "For the very first time, individual responders, spill response organizations, manufacturers and others responsible for the world's capacity to respond to oil and chemical spills, will have a voice at the International Maritime Organization. The recognition of ISCO means that, at long last, the professionals in the front line of spill combat operations will join with other organizations at IMO representing oil, shipping and environmental interests. The inclusion of those who provide the essential infrastructure for spill response fills a longstanding gap and will ensure a much better balance, allowing direct dialogue between IMO and the spill response community".

The transition from provisional to permanent observer status at IMO is an important milestone for ISCO. Recognition at IMO followed two years after ISCO's re-launch at IOSC Miami in 2005. For the interest of readers a paper introducing ISCO's re-launch is reprinted in this edition of the ISCO Newsletter.

NEW REPORT RECOMMENDS NEW APPROACH TO OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY

December 14 – On Wednesday, the [National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council](#) released a new report examining the safety management processes of those companies involved in the Deepwater Horizon explosion and resulting oil spill. The council found several flaws with the current safety management system and recommends a "System Safety" approach to such incidents.

To reduce the risk of another accident as catastrophic as the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill, a new report from the National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council says, companies involved in offshore drilling should take a "system safety" approach to anticipating and managing possible dangers at every level of operation -- from ensuring the integrity of wells to designing blowout preventers that function "under all foreseeable conditions." In addition, an enhanced regulatory approach should combine strong industry safety goals with mandatory oversight at critical points during drilling operations.

The report says the lack of effective safety management among the companies involved in the Macondo Well-Deepwater Horizon disaster is evident in the multiple flawed decisions that led to the blowout and explosion, which killed 11 workers and produced the biggest accidental oil spill in U.S. history. Regulators also failed to exercise effective oversight. [Read more](#)

NAMEPA'S CLAY MAITLAND TELLS SENIOR LEADERSHIP IN CHINA "CLEAN SEAS ARE GOOD BUSINESS"

December 12 - At a recent Senior Maritime Forum held in conjunction with Marintec China 2011, Clay Maitland called for marine environment protection as "an essential strategy for corporate risk management". As NAMEPA's (North American Marine Environment Protection Association) Founding Chairman, Maitland told the over 400 senior Chinese leaders that "Clean seas are good business".

"In these times of economic pressure, rising insurance costs, and growing regulatory pressure, no shipowner, or charterer, should neglect its risk management procedures," urged Maitland. "One lesson of the Erika, Prestige, Cosco Busan and other recent oil spills is that the cost, to owners operators and charterers, of damage to the marine environment is by no means proportionate to the amount of oil spilled. So-called 'strict liability' rules, regarding damages, mean that even if a ship's owner or operator is not directly at fault, the facts—political and legal—are that a ship operator's liability for environment harm will most likely be considerable, virtually unlimited, and, in the U.S., 'strict'-- that is, liability regardless of actual fault." [Read more](#)

US STUDY ON IMPACT TO DRINKING WATER LIKELY TO INFORM DRILLING POLICY IN EUROPE

December 12 - A US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) study under way into the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" on drinking water resources will inform future policy in Europe, an NUI Galway (NUIG) geologist has forecast.

The major study, requested by the US Congress due to "public concern", will include research into thousands of reported instances of drinking water contamination in US states where the technique to extract gas from underground reserves is licensed.

The final report is not due until 2014, but a preliminary report issued by it last week found that compounds which were likely to be associated with fracking chemicals had been detected in the groundwater beneath Pavillion, a small community in central Wyoming. [Read more](#)

BRAZIL PROSECUTOR ASKS CHEVRON TO SUSPEND COMPANY ACTIVITIES, PAY \$10.7 BILLION



A view of Chevron's oil sheen dated December 7. The company says that less than one barrel remains on the S. Atlantic.

Brazil's federal prosecutor's office is asking [Chevron](#) to suspend all of its activities in Brazil and pay \$10.7 billion in damages after a November oil spill, according to a statement sent to Bloomberg, the news service reported Wednesday.

The country's federal prosecutor is suing the U.S. oil major and Transocean, the operator of the [Chevron](#) oil rig that sprung a leak in early November off the coast of Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state, reported [Dow Jones](#) Newswires.

According to the prosecutor's office, both companies were unable to "control the damage caused by the spill of nearly 3,000 barrels of oil, which shows a lack of planning and environmental management by the companies," reported the Wall Street Journal. [Read more](#)

JAPAN: FUKUSHIMA

Officials: Cold shutdown has been achieved

December 17 - The government and Tokyo Electric Power Co. declared Friday the three crippled reactors at the Fukushima No. 1 plant are in cold shutdown and no longer leaking large amounts of radiation.

If the authorities are correct and cooling of the reactors is stable, it would be an important milestone in ending the world's worst nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl crisis. But many skeptics believe the declaration is little more than political grandstanding, given the revised definition of what constitutes cold shutdown and the date of the declaration, which had been reported long in advance, and are concerned about the long-term stability of the plant's critical coolant system.

A cold shutdown usually means the reactor core coolant temperatures are below 100 degrees, ensuring that coolant water is not boiling and that radioactive material are not escaping from the cores in significant amounts. [Read more](#)

IAEA has grave concerns

December 17 - The International Atomic Energy Agency has conveyed to Japan its grave concern over not being informed about nuclear substances found in the waste of domestic facilities subject to the agency's inspections, government officials said.

The IAEA expressed its concern to Japan in February and has made a rare request to also examine waste that is usually not subject to its inspections, they said.

The Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry subsequently conducted a probe of 262 facilities nationwide and discovered more large quantities of unaccounted-for nuclear material. [Read more](#)

GHANA: UNIDO LAUNCHES CONTAMINATED SITES MANAGEMENT TOOLKITS FOR AFRICA

December 14 -The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), on Tuesday launched a comprehensive toolkit on Contaminated Sites Managements on Persistent Organic Pollution (POP) to aid developing countries with the detection, cataloging and prioritisation of contaminated sites.

The toolkit seeks to assist countries with the development of suitable technologies for land remediation – that is the clean-up of chemical and pollutants on land sites that causes health concerns to humans and the environment in accordance with best available techniques and best environmental practices.

In a speech read on his behalf to launch toolkit in Accra, Mr Daniel Amlalo, Acting Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said the toolkits would be used as a training tool, self-directed manual, resources document for decision makers and range of other stakeholders.

He said the kits were being piloted in Ghana and Nigeria but would eventually be used throughout Africa and other developing countries in other parts of the world. [Read more](#)

UK: GOVERNMENT URGED TO SIMPLIFY HAZARDOUS WASTE POLICY STATEMENT

December 14 - MPs have called for improvements to be made to government policy surrounding the building of large-scale hazardous waste facilities to reduce delays and costs for developers.

Defra's national policy statement (NPS), currently in draft form, will guide decision-making on applications for major hazardous waste infrastructure projects. However a parliamentary select committee has warned the guidance is too cumbersome and bureaucratic.

Back in July, the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Committee launched an inquiry into the Government's proposal for a hazardous waste NPS. Today (December 14) it published a [report on its findings](#), and urged Defra to amend the NPS to keep costs to a minimum and reduce the risk of flooding. [Read more](#)

USA: GULF OF MEXICO

First oil & gas lease sale since oil spill generates millions

December 14 - For the first time since the BP oil spill, the federal government held a Gulf of Mexico oil and gas lease auction in New Orleans on Wednesday. It came on the same day as an announcement on the first phase of oil spill restoration projects.

At P&J Oyster Company in the French Quarter, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar learned the fine art of shucking oysters, just minutes after announcing a major oyster restoration project for Louisiana.

News (continued)

"We need to make sure that we move forward with the restoration of the Gulf of Mexico in a way that supports the oyster industry and its future," Salazar said. [Read more](#)

Gulf oil spill restoration: First round of projects total \$57 million

December 14 - Officials released a first round of oil spill restoration projects Wednesday that included proposals to create or enhance oyster habitat, salt marshes, sand dunes, and nearshore reefs in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida.

Drawing from a \$1 billion pool established by BP as a down payment on fines related to the [2010 Deepwater Horizon spill](#), representatives from the Gulf States agreed on \$57 million worth of restoration projects.

Those proposals will be up for public comment at a series of meetings in January and February. [Read more](#)

Oil-spill restoration work will start soon

December 14 - Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced the beginning of the public comment period Wednesday in New Orleans, the first step toward starting restoration work early next year.

BP has committed \$1 billion as a down payment for coastal-restoration projects as the federal government, the Gulf states and the oil company continue to work through a legal process to assess environmental damage and assess fines. That process is called the Natural Resources Damage Assessment. Normally, money is distributed after the study is complete. But that could take more than a decade, which many say may be too long to help the rapidly degrading Louisiana coast. [Read more](#)

USA: HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES PIPELINE SAFETY & JOBS MEASURE

December 11 - The House of Representatives today unanimously approved bipartisan legislation to enhance the nation's pipeline safety programs, ensure the reliable transportation of energy products throughout the nation, and provide greater regulatory certainty that will help businesses create jobs.

The Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (H.R. 2845) was introduced in the House by Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL), and the legislation approved today is the result of the bipartisan, bicameral work of the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction. The legislation now goes before the U.S. Senate for consideration.

The Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 authorizes funding for programs of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) through fiscal year 2015. PHMSA oversees safety programs for the 2.3 million miles of natural gas, petroleum, and other hazardous liquid pipelines in the United States. [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: ANOTHER LEAK AT NSW ORICA PLANT

December 17 - Orica says about 3000 to 4000 litres of sulphuric acid has leaked at its Port Kembla facility on the NSW south coast.

The company said there was 'contained leakage' of about 3000 to 4000 litres of sulphuric acid at its Port Kembla facility, on the NSW south coast on Friday

The leak had been reported to the NSW Environment Protection Authority, Orica said.

'The sulphuric acid leaked from the ship to shore pipeline into the culvert, where it was fully contained,' the company said in a statement on Friday night.

'The safety containment system functioned as designed.

'The cause of the leakage is suspected at this time to be from a small hole in the pipeline and is being investigated.' [Read more](#)

USA: CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACK SIMULATED AT MLB PARK

December 15 - A large scale emergency disaster drill involving the simulation of a chemical weapons attack was held on Wednesday at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C.

The mock terrorist attack simulated the conditions that first responders would have to face if trying to rescue victims during a chemical attack. The simulation also gave insight as to how emergency medical care would be provided during a high-yield explosive or nuclear incident, NBC Washington reports. [Read more](#)

UK: NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



SEPA has appointed a new Chief Executive. He is Professor James Curran MBE, who is currently SEPA's Director of Science and Strategy.

The appointment follows the resignation of existing Chief Executive, Dr Campbell Gemmill, who is taking on a new role in South Australia. James will take up the post on 7 January 2012, following Dr Gemmill's departure.

James Curran has extensive experience in many aspects of environmental science and regulation, spanning more than three decades, and is highly regarded and widely respected as an expert authority on the environment and environmental protection. [Read more](#)

Special feature

ISCO: AN INTRODUCTION



This is a reprint of a paper that was written in 2005 and released at the time of ISCO's relaunch at the International Oil Spill Conference in Miami, USA.

It will give readers who have not yet become members of ISCO an insight into changes made at this time and reasons why they should join an organization that now has a worldwide membership in 37 countries.

Introduction

ISCO - The International Spill Control Organisation - was incorporated in London in 1984 as a non-profit-making organisation, dedicated to promoting improved worldwide preparedness in response to oil and chemical spills.

The founding members of ISCO were the Spill Control Association of America (SCAA), the British Oil Spill Control Association (BOSCA) and the Spill Control Association of France (SYCAPOL)¹

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and other organisations involved in promoting legislation and other measures to improve the world's capability to respond effectively to oil and chemical spills have the benefit of inputs from national governments, petroleum industry organisations and environmental groups.

There is a vast resource of knowledge and experience amongst oil spill professionals - dedicated men and women in spill control manufacturing, response companies, co-operatives, consultancies, universities, research and training establishments. The implementation of global measures to counter pollution depends to a high degree on these professionals and their organisations but, without focus, they have no voice². IMO and other relevant world organisations cannot communicate directly with the oil spill control industry as a whole and cannot easily access the expertise therein.

The International Spill Control Organisation was established to correct this situation, and to enhance the value of the already substantial contribution made by professionals to the world effort to combat pollution.

ISCO's Objectives

- To act as a world forum for professionals, companies and organisations involved in Spill Control and related disciplines.
- To encourage in various countries and regions the formation of National or Regional Associations
- To represent ISCO Members, providing a single contact point between Members and IMO, other agencies of the United Nations, the European Community, other international organisations, national governments, and other groups.
- To support the activities of the International Maritime Organisation and to promote the dissemination of its work.
- To disseminate information on the prevention, mitigation and remediation of oil and hazardous materials spills into the environment.

Special feature (continued)

- To provide assistance to Members seeking to develop their knowledge base and build expertise in Spill Control and related disciplines.
- To promote the maintenance of high professional and ethical standards.
- To influence the establishment of testing facilities, and to encourage common standards for equipment and materials used in spill control.
- To assemble and maintain up-to-date information on the resources available within the Membership of ISCO, including the special expertise which ISCO will be able to contribute to the IMO and other international organisations.
- To undertake other activities that can enhance effective international co-operation and efficiency in major spill events calling for a co-ordinated international response.

Changes in Membership Criteria

Until this time, membership of ISCO was only available to National or Regional Associations that had adopted a constitution consistent with the aims and objectives of ISCO. This restriction on membership eligibility has inhibited the development of ISCO, especially in regard to the number of countries participating, a factor that has prevented ISCO from progressing NGO status with IMO.

To overcome this obstacle it was proposed to broaden membership eligibility -

- Membership will be open to all professionals, companies and organisations involved in Spill Control and related disciplines.
- National Representatives on the ISCO Council will normally be nominated by national associations. ISCO will continue to actively encourage and assist the formation of eligible national associations. In countries where these do not exist, the Members in each country shall elect or nominate one of their number as their National Representative on the ISCO Council.
- Historically, ISCO's focus has been solely on the response industry private sector. This resulted in the exclusion of professionals in public sector response organisations and many other stakeholders with an interest in supporting ISCO's objectives. It is now proposed that Membership of ISCO be available to all involved individuals and organisations in both the private and public sectors.
- Membership of ISCO will not be expensive. Very affordable rates will be available for students and individual members.

Timing of the Re-launch

Professionals in the spill control industry are facing new challenges. Thanks to the positive effects of legislation, increased vigilance and prevention measures, the frequency of oil spills is continuing to fall. As an economic necessity, many response organisations and manufacturers are keen to broaden the range of services and products they provide. Developing activities include chemical spill response and a wide range of support services for potential polluters, including contingency planning, training, response inventory upgrading, risk reduction auditing and the implementation of improved spill prevention measures. A key role for ISCO will be in the provision of practical support for its members in meeting these new challenges.

Governments everywhere are faced with new threats from both natural disasters and acts of terrorism, both of which have potential to cause large scale pollution. Response to incidents of this kind can quickly swamp the capacity of fire brigades and other civil defence organisations. Governments need to be able to mobilise additional resources and are already looking towards spill response organisations and professionals as potential providers of support services. ISCO plans to establish working groups to help its members build incident response capability and, through networking, to quickly source additional expertise when it is needed.

With instant worldwide communication now possible via Email and Web Pages, ISCO and its members will be able to keep in touch easily and economically. It will be possible to disseminate information on new technologies, for work groups to advance projects by correspondence using Email, for members to stay "in the loop" for new developments and to have a voice on ISCO matters - all without the cost and time involved in travelling to attend meetings.

With new challenges to meet and availability of easy communications, there has never been a better time for ISCO's re-launch.

¹ Soon followed by SWEPARPOL, the spill control association of Sweden.

² Consultative status was granted on a provisional basis in 2007



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 56 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 DISPERSANT USE (CHAPTER 56)

We have seen that natural dispersion removes non-volatile liquid components of oils, water-in-oil emulsions and non-volatile/insoluble/liquid HNS from water surfaces at rates dependent on their flow characteristics; and that dispersant-induced enhancement of natural dispersion rates decreases to zero as the tendency to flow diminishes. Now, we review our knowledge of this dispersant limitation, the relevant parameters being wax/asphalting-content, pour-point and viscosity of the individual pollutants.

Thus, these solids-contents determine the pour-point temperature which determines whether the oil will be liquid or solid at sea temperature as does the melting point of individual HNS. If liquid, the natural dispersion rates of oils and insoluble HNS are determined by their temperature-dependent viscosities, as is the degree of their dispersant-induced enhancement, while if solid, droplet dispersion is absent. Again, the distillation profile of oils or the specific boiling-points of HNS, determine the extent to which evaporation reduces/precludes the need for dispersants. Thus, by denoting the number of carbon atoms in the individual molecules of crude oils as C_x , we know that petrol/gasoline consists of the $C_5 - C_{10}$ distillation fraction, that kerosene is the $C_{10} - C_{12}$ fraction, that light distillates are the $C_{12} - C_{20}$, fraction, that heavy distillates are the $C_{20} - C_{40}$ fraction and that residual oils are the fraction above C_{40} ; that all HNS with boiling points $< 250^\circ\text{C}$ will evaporate as will petrol, kerosene, domestic fuel oil, gas oil and naphtha, leaving no residue at ambient temperatures above 10°C ; that for such there is no need dispersant treatment; and that residual oils and lubricating oils show little or no evaporative loss and are resistant to natural dispersion and to dispersant application.

However, we also know that the light crude oils such as Ekofisk will lose 30% by weight through evaporation; that the low viscosity of their wax/asphaltene-content of their water-in-oil emulsions permit natural dispersion with short half-lives, the Ekofisk value being 10-12 hours; and that these half-lives can be shortened significantly by dispersant treatment, should this be necessary. Thus, we have seen that all liquid oils have been grouped into half-life bands on the basis of the corresponding volatility/distillation and viscosity bands which now enable predictions to be made as to percentage weight loss and persistence of non-volatile components as floating slicks; and that just as observation at trials and incidents produced the current half-life/viscosity groupings by the mid-1980s (articles 39-43), further observation could by now have tightened these groupings and increased their number to achieve greater predictive precision, while further quantifying the relationship between dispersant efficiency and pollutant viscosity.

However, we currently know that most crude oils have a viscosity measured at 100°F of $< 50\text{cSt}$, and that such are amenable to enhancement of their natural dispersion rates by dispersant treatment. As to the amenability of water-in-oil emulsions, the limiting viscosity at sea temperature appears to be in the region of 7500cSt which is equivalent to 300cSt at 100°F assuming that attempts are made to disperse emulsions down to seawater temperatures of 0°C . Correspondingly, if the lowest seawater temperature under consideration is 10°C or 20°C then the upper limit for dispersant treatable emulsion viscosity is respectively 700, or 1500cSt as measured at 100°F . Thus, dispersant application should be effective with most crude oils and their emulsions, provided the viscosity of the latter does not exceed the above limits as measured at the seawater temperature of individual incidents or interpolated on viscosity/ temperature graphs, and provided this is not too much to expect of those who operate current/so-called contingency plans.

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.

Company news

SEACOR RESPONSE, ALPHA BRIGGS AND OSRA GREECE SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY OIL SPILL RESOURCES IN THE EVENT OF INCIDENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

SEACOR Response Ltd., a global provider of emergency preparedness and response solutions, Alpha Briggs Mediterranean Ltd, a provider of oil spill services based in Malta, and OSRA Greece Ltd, a company registered in Greece to provide oil spill services to the region, announced today that they have implemented a joint agreement to provide supplementary resources in the event of an oil spill incident in the Mediterranean Sea region. The agreement allows the parties to access the equipment and personnel response resources of the partners under a pre-agreed arrangement in the event of an incident in the region.

"This agreement allows the parties to cost-effectively provide greater response capacity for their respective clients in the region," said Neil Challis, President of SEACOR Response. Paul Pisani, Commercial and Operations Director of Alpha Briggs, added, "The combination of the regional oil spill and salvage strengths of Alpha Briggs and OSRA Greece and the international response capability of SEACOR Response provides for a very robust industry-led capability in the region." Paul Xiradakis, Operations

Company news (continued)

Director of OSRA Greece, commented, "Networking the regional resources of our Group with those of SEACOR Response was a wise decision, and the only way that may effectively guarantee a professional response mechanism to the oil and gas and shipping industries."

SEACOR Response, a subsidiary of SEACOR Holdings Inc., is a global leader in the provision of emergency preparedness and response solutions including oil spill response, HAZMAT response, fire fighting and emergency response training & consultancy. SEACOR Response combines local services and knowledge with the global strengths of a major international company to deliver quality service worldwide. SEACOR Response is focused on providing highly responsive local service combined with the highest safety standards, modern efficient equipment and experienced and knowledgeable professional employees.

ALPHA BRIGGS is based in Malta at a strategic location in the Sicily Channel separating the Mediterranean Eastern basin from the Western basin. With the current sea borne traffic in the Mediterranean exceeding 280,000 vessels annually, the oil & gas activity in North Africa, the busy STS area just offshore Malta, and the busy sea lanes from/to North Africa crossing the East/West traffic routes the base in Malta is of strategic importance. ALPHA BRIGGS supports the newly formed OSRA INTERNATIONAL group of oil spill response companies based around the Mediterranean.

OSRA GREECE operates an oil spill response base in Piraeus, and is preparing to establish its second base in Tesseloniki in Northern Greece. The area of operation of the Company covers the sea traffic moving to and from the Black Sea. The numerous islands in the Aegean Sea have been the cause of a high incidence of marine casualties in the region. OSRA GREECE supports international salvors operating in the area, as well as local authorities in the protection of their national environment.

[More info](#)

POLLUTION CONTROL FOR CHINA AND IRAQ



Alnmaritec Limited, which is recognised as one of the UK's leading specialist boat builders has recently delivered two new oil pollution control boats for operation by PetroChina in Tianjin, China.

The new 'Wave Skimmer' class boats were delivered by Alnmaritec to Elastec American Marine who also supplied all of the oil recovery and storage equipments on board. These boats follow on from the successful Wave Provider class boat that was delivered by Alnmaritec to Elastec in 2010 for operation by PetroChina at their Dalian refinery.

The innovative design has a hydraulically operated garbage scoop at the bow for floating waste collection which can deposit up to two cubic metres into a removable skip on deck and it has built into the hulls a novel 'circus' system for oil skimming. The circus system allows polluted water to be diverted into each hull where

oil can be recovered using either weir or drum skimmers. The boats are fitted with 5m³ of recovered oil storage capacity together with a ballast system that ensures their trim remains optimal at all stages of the oil recovery process. They are fitted with inboard diesels driving twin waterjets which provide excellent manoeuvrability as well as a very shallow draught for operating close to beaches and ramps. The boats are very robustly built and capable of taking a substantial cargo on deck (in place of the skip) which makes them exceptionally versatile harbour craft.

In August Alnmaritec delivered two new 'Wave Worker' pollution control boats for operation in Basrah, Iraq. The unusual boats feature a hydraulic knuckle boom crane and a deployment reel for oil containment boom as well as skimmers and oil storage tanks. They also have air conditioned accommodation including berths and full facilities for four crew. [More info](#)

ISCO announcements

DID YOU FIND THIS NEWSLETTER USEFUL AND INTERESTING?

If the answer is yes and you are not yet a member of ISCO, you can help support the organization and ensure the continued publication of the Newsletter by joining now.

You can join online by clicking on [Application Form](#) and membership is not expensive

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