

# SpillAlert

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE SPILL INDUSTRY

ISSUE 5 : JANUARY 2011

PRODUCED BY

UKSpill  
ASSOCIATION

## THE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ISSUE

Conferences and exhibitions are an opportunity for networking, teambuilding, training, education and the best place to source services and equipment.

Everybody and everything you need - together.

Cover image:  
Spill clean up at Dalian in China

  
**interspill**  
LONDON 2012

# Contents

- 3 GUEST EDITORIAL
- 4 THE MAIN FEATURE - THE OIL SPILL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION - WHERE TO?
- 7 AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW ON THE VALUE OF EXHIBITIONS TO THE OIL SPILL INDUSTRY
- 9 A MESSAGE FROM BILL LERCH, IOSC PRESIDENT
- 11 OTHER GLOBAL SPILL EVENTS
- 12-13 THE RAW REPORT
- 14 IN THE NEWS
- 15 DEEPWATER HORIZON - POSTSCRIPTS
- 16-17 COMPANY PROFILE: VIKOMA
- 19 IN THE NEWS



EDITOR:

**Roger Mabbott**

Unit 1, Riverside Business Park,  
Buxton Road, Bakewell,  
Derbyshire DE45 1GS  
T +44 (0)7793 649 643  
E [info@ukspill.org](mailto:info@ukspill.org)  
[www.ukspill.org](http://www.ukspill.org)

Cover image kindly reproduced with the permission of  
FEATURE CHINA / BARCROFT MEDIA LTD.  
Unit 9, 14 Southgate Road, London N1 3LY

## Welcome

Our front page picture reflects the reality of oil spills, hidden from public view whilst the spotlight shone on the Gulf of Mexico last year. A major spill at Dalian in China created a more conventional oil spill, with crude oil coated sea, shore and people. The picture is a reminder of the human face of the clean up operation. It is far away from the bright and clean images we use in this issue to set the scene for discussions about the value of the Oil Spill Conference and Exhibition.

Every industry generates its own events – to discuss developments, to sell equipment and services and to bring people together. It is this last reason that is particularly important for the Oil Spill industry, given that its function is to deal with consequences of a disaster, large or small, that results from a spill.

The need to take action quickly is obvious, and because of the variety of interests involved, the opportunity for networking amongst future colleagues is seen as the most important reason for attending a Spill Conference. It simply means that familiarisation with potential colleagues will result in a better and quicker result.

There is no doubt that events such as IOSC 2011, at Portland, Oregon in May 2011, (see page 9), and our own European event, Interspill 2012, (see page 6) in London in March 2012, deliver on this issue.

However, whilst recognising that time is critical in taking action at a spill, the same applies to the time spent at an Oil Spill conference. In organising the event, we are expecting delegates, visitors, speakers, and exhibitors to commit 2,3 or even 4 days, excluding travel, to an event. In an era where the value of work time is being examined ever more carefully, the organisers have to recognise that doing the same as before will lead to decline and failure.

As we will always need to network in this industry, it is vital that the event thrives, which means that the whole event delivers better value. Market research carried after Interspill 2009 showed that change was needed to maintain attendance, and that better value was critical to grow the event in the eyes of all its stakeholders.

The front page image cannot be eliminated, accidents are sadly inevitable, but if we can add value to our Oil Spill conferences and exhibitions, that networking opportunity may deliver a better result.

**24 Hour Emergency  
Response Number**



**01732 843131**

**darcy**  
spillcare manufacture

**Leading suppliers to the  
UK Oil Spill Response and  
Clean Up Industry**

- Booms
- Skimmers
- Pumps
- Oil water separators
- Absorbents
- Spill Kits
- Remediation



**UKSpill**  
ASSOCIATION

**UKSpillContractors**  
ACCREDITATION SCHEME

[www.darcy.co.uk](http://www.darcy.co.uk)

## Guest Editorial

# Observations on the relevance of the Deepwater Horizon Spill to the UK Oil Spill Industry.

Even before we start picking over the findings of the many enquiries going on across the globe dissecting the response and the implications on us all, we can see a significant impact on our industry in the UK. Manufacturing has had a boost, consultants are working overtime reviewing contingency plans and trainers are flat out as the oil industry suddenly remembers their obligations. Long may it continue!

Of course the biggest impact will be in legislation and regulation and perhaps that is no bad thing. In the last Spill Alert John Holmes lamented on what he saw as the decline of the UK's spill response capability and criticised commercial contractors for letting their capability wane. Surely that is the legislators fault, without better definition of what an effective response capability is, and an ability to critically assess it through audit there is no incentive to do more than

"tick the box". If that is what the regulator accepts, and there hasn't been any penalties for doing differently, then why do more? I would argue this is what has happened in our ports. The MCA does not have the capacity to properly assess the real response capability at each port and lacks a substantive enforcement ability. We will see increased legislation offshore and the regulators powers will increase. DECC has a strong enforcement arm and the number of inspectors continues to grow as does their willingness to prosecute. Will that in time impact other regulators and how they do their jobs? The more political it becomes, (and there is nothing like a big spill to cause that) then the more likely that is.

Deepwater however does give us an opportunity to review all the tools in our response tool box and I am sure we will see the pendulum swing away from the concentration on dispersants. Sad to say it is watershed events such as this that focus our minds and helps us critically review what is needed for effective response. It is a mantra in our company that "effective response depends on trained people working to a well developed contingency plan that has been properly resourced and regularly exercised". The premise that we are reliant upon

enthusiastic and classroom trained graduates does a disservice to the expertise in this country and we would do well to remember that a good number of the "Sea Empress stalwarts" hadn't seen an oil spill before they got to Pembroke! The quality of training and improved accreditation in this country is leading the world. We do, however, need to be more critical in reviewing the contingency plans and in particular the alternative response tools. We must remember that there is a place for mechanical recovery and make the use of Vessels of Opportunity easier. If we cannot use the ready supply of offshore support vessels for this purpose we are missing an effective resource. As for the burning question; "does in situ burning have a place in UK response?" I will leave that one to you.

**Archie Smith**, Chief Executive and Director



Oil Spill Response Limited,  
One Great Cumberland Place,  
London W1H 7AL, United Kingdom

The main feature:



## THE OIL SPILL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION - WHERE TO?

Yet again a major spill reminds the world, and also all those working with and in the oil spill industry, whether government, NGO's or private sector, that we can never assume the problem has gone away. With two serious well blowouts in the last 12 months, the focus has shifted to the offshore risk, but in a world where each day approximately 10 million tons of oil is shipped, transported by pipeline, train or truck, the risk remains serious in any environment.

Why rehearse well known facts? The background to any industry is fundamental knowledge, and supports not only its industry, but also a wide range of organisations in the public sector.

Whilst primary tasks occupy companies, organisations and individuals, a secondary activity is the industry conference and exhibition. This activity exists across most industries, and is the justification for major businesses, such as Reed Exhibitions, who will be managing Interspill 2012, on behalf of its Steering Committee.

In late 2009, post Marseille Interspill, the members of group were researched to identify what was needed for future events, and the key fact that emerged was that 4 out of 5 visitors regarded Networking as the primary justification for attending, not the conference, or the exhibition. This message was recognised as the way forward for Interspill 2012 to become an Essential Club encompassing Networking, Education, Conference, and Exhibition.

The strategy to grow visitors, encourage speakers, delegates, and importantly deliver

value for exhibitors can be set out in the following key elements -

A more dynamic interactive conference profile is needed to support the exhibition. Top quality speakers, more variety in format with workshops combining with traditional streams, and wider range of subjects with more industry involvement.

The current event is in 2 halves and both conference and exhibition need to become more integrated as a partnership, because the conference needs the exhibition as much as the exhibition needs the conference. Describing the event as a Conference and Exhibition has set the tone, and this should be changed to emphasise that Interspill is more than a traditional event and is a multi faceted arena for all the stakeholders.

The content of the conference should reflect all of the stakeholders, with ongoing involvement of not only the steering committee but also the supporters. The intellectual aspect must better reflect different generations as well as different responsibilities across the spill arena.

The commercial interests have shown

willingness to add to the conference, and the conference must also move into the exhibition with workshops on the floor of the exhibition. The need exists for an open plan event, so that delegates and exhibitors are equals, delegates should not be a superior level, access to all parts of the event should be open to all, leading to shared ownership.

The event pays lip service to networking, over 70% of visitors have that as a priority. Interspill is an essential club, prepping people for that inevitable disaster. Networking must become as important as the exhibition and conference, with more time allocated before and during the event.

Onwater demonstrations have largely failed in the past. However, spill industry and other stakeholders regard it as essential, but not set alone as an activity. It must become a networking event with social structures, viz the success of the NOSCA seminar. Any future event must have the ability to hold an Onwater Event as a key determinant in location.

The need for short education courses is agreed, and in future Education must be alongside Onwater, Conference and Exhibition, as a main component of Interspill. The future is more likely to be about preparation/

prevention, than response, and Education/Information can draw volume to the event. The Interspill website can offer continuous support for this as well as ongoing promotion of the event.

The future course for Interspill ([www.Interspill.com](http://www.Interspill.com)) is now being set by the Organising Committee, which is comprised of the Steering Committee, effectively the Owners, joined by its primary supporters, ie IMO, IOPC, ITOPF, and Cedre. Over the coming months the Event Plan will emerge, and will be posted on the website, and broadcast through future editions of SpillAlert.

In the meantime, the next Triennial Exhibition is IOSC 2011, to be held in Portland, Oregon between 23-26 May 2011 see [www.iosc.org](http://www.iosc.org) for details



## Everything you need to protect your business

The OAMPS Team - your partners in petrochemical insurance and risk management, environmental consultancy and staff training.

[www.oamps.co.uk](http://www.oamps.co.uk)

A  Wesfarmers Company

Insurance Managers to the UKSpill Association 



 **OAMPS** 01372 467266  
PETROCHEMICAL

 **OHES** 08702 403329  
ENVIRONMENTAL

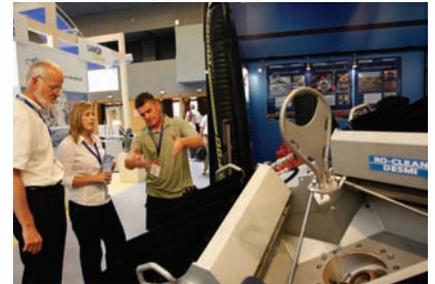
 **ORS** 01485 544198  
RISK MANAGEMENT

# interspill LONDON 2012

SPILL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

13-15 March 2012  
Excel • London • UK

## Even bigger and more diverse



Interspill 2012 will build on the success of the previous conference and exhibition held in Marseilles in 2009. Due to be held at Excel, close to the 2012 Olympic Stadium, Interspill 2012 will bring together experts and leaders of industry to exhibit, debate and exchange best practice.



Interspill 2012 will be more interactive, and multifaceted, to reflect the changes in the world of oil and also chemical spills. In addition to the traditional conference, more workshops and seminars will be held, to promote industrial developments, education, training and demonstrations.

The underlying theme will be to look towards the next generation, who will be dealing with future spills, and to deliver that essential element in this industry.



Visit [www.interspill.org](http://www.interspill.org) for up-to-date news and information about InterSpill 2012

Supported by



Steering Committee



The main feature:



# An alternative view on the value of exhibitions to the oil spill industry

With the high oil price, new and pending legislation, plus the recent events in the Gulf of Mexico fresh in people's minds, the oil spill recovery market is on one of its peaks. Businesses with healthy bottom lines are engaging with a whole array of new marketing activity as companies strive to promote and reinforce their wares. One arena of promotion, and sometimes conflict, is the Spill exhibition and with a number of these on the horizon are they really worth it?

Generally, at the worst point of an economic downturn, a high number of businesses choose to withdraw from exhibiting at shows internationally, but this is also a general trend. The overall cost of exhibitions was considered much too high and the number of visitors were in decline. Company account departments argued that Sales should know their markets and have a more targeted approach. In addition, the exhibition sales person would always try and convince you that because your competitor was going, or thinking of going to exhibit, this was reason alone to attend! Plus, if you didn't attend, your Company must be struggling and the rumours would spread in the market place of your demise. These are hardly concrete business reasons to exhibit but are likely to resonate with many. However, in the present climate, trade shows can be an excellent way for Companies to generate business, reinforce existing relationships with 'consumers'

and, after recent environmental impacts, are seen to be serious about the profession. It is important that the Oil Spill industry is seen to be active in these arenas.

Exhibitions by nature are specific to every industry, with the benefit that the 'clientele' that are attracted to specific events will predominantly be the businesses key demographic and therefore it gives the businesses exhibiting the chance to get noticed by them and promote their key values.

Exhibitions are one of the very few advertising techniques that allow for two-way communication with the businesses that they may contemplate receiving information and/or buying from. This makes it an exclusive and favourable marketing tool as information, grievances or enquiries can be dealt with in person whilst providing businesses the chance to receive valuable feedback from previous and present customers. Trade shows are a

way for companies to encourage and develop relationships both old and new. They give the opportunity for buyers to relay criticism, and also obtain the assurance that the product or services that they've bought are still promoting their products and services and looking to encourage further brand awareness. The Oil Spill industry by its nature is small but this message has to be relayed beyond the traditional players and efforts should be made to engage and get involved with more of the demographic sector.

It is also important that the organisers of exhibitions play their part in making the event a success particularly when one considers the time, cost and resource being invested by the exhibitors. This may not be the stage to debate the run up to the IOSC, but are we alone in thinking this is an event which appears to be out of control. Indeed, it's been a struggle to receive the official opening hours of the event from the organisers until very recently! This, at a time when we want to communicate our message to the wider world that we know what we are doing and take things seriously! However, confidence remains high for the InterSpill 2012 exhibition in March to be held at Excel in London Docklands. It is interesting to note that the event takes place alongside Oceanology International, repeating the pattern of 2006. This is a great example of where we can relay our message to a wider but related audience.

# We offer a range of standard product packages with a very short delivery time

Skimming Systems and Oil Storage  
Solid Float Oil Booms (round or flat shape floats)  
7.5 m (24.6 ft) Work Boats with Bow Collectors  
Oil Transfer Pumps and Power Packs

– and more from Lamor

Lamor advert full page



Please contact Lamor  
for more information,  
tel: +358 20 7650100,  
fax: +358 20 7650 129,  
email: [info@lamor.com](mailto:info@lamor.com)

# LAMOR

Your oil spill solution expert



# INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE 2011 **A MESSAGE FROM BILL LERCH, IOSC PRESIDENT**



**Bill Lerch,**  
IOSC President

**The 2011 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) is scheduled to be held in Portland, Oregon from May 23 through May 26.**

The conference's theme of "Promoting the Science of Spill Response" continues the long tradition of the IOSC since 1969 of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and lessons learned from actual spill responses and research around the world. This conference will also continue the

North American part of the Triennial Oil Spill Conference Cycle established in 2005, to be followed by Interspill 2012 (Europe) and Spillcon 2013 (SE Asia), before returning to North America in 2014. The triennial agreement permits industry, government, and academic

stakeholders to focus on one major international technical conference per year. This, in turn, ensures maximum participation of subject matter experts from around the world and guarantees that the most recent case studies and lessons learned are addressed.

This year's conference will build on the highly successful format of the last IOSC held in Savanna, Georgia. The IOSC will also continue hosting its well-received golf tournament on the first day and a gala dinner at the conclusion of the conference. These two events provide great opportunities for global, industry experts to foster technical and support networks in the relatively small community of oil spill response. The City of Portland and its surrounding communities will provide an exciting and enjoyable venue for the conference, and we highly recommend that you take advantage of what this scenic region has to offer.

## **A VIEW FROM LAMOR ON THE RECENT OIL SPILLS**

**Public and government awareness and concern about oil spills was reignited by the Gulf of Mexico incident, although the primary source of accidental oil spills into seas is associated with oil transportation by tankers and pipelines.**

"We continuously invest significantly in safeguards and solutions," says CEO Fred Larsen. "Our entire ecosystem is threatened without having the best available solutions, technology, equipment and expertise in handling oil spill recovery operations under any conditions and in all geographical terrains. This is an ongoing effort, and we need to be ready and prepared to tackle any incidents around the world quickly, strategically and effectively. A month before the Gulf incident, Lamor was contacted by aviation insurers to

urgently respond to an incident in Estonia. The company deployed its equipment and teams to Estonia after an Antonov 26 cargo plane made an emergency landing on Lake Ülemiste, near Tallinn. The lake, which was frozen solid, is the principal drinking water reservoir for the city. Oil leakage escaped from the fuselage of the plane under the ice and the company was tasked to ensure that the lake was immediately cleaned and purified from all oil and any other pollutants caused by the accident to protect the city's vital reservoir.



**INDUSTRIAL APPARATUS  
CONSULTANTS LIMITED**

**Environmental Products**

[www.iacuk.com](http://www.iacuk.com)

020 7486 6474

 **Integrated Pollution Clean-up**



**salarollump<sup>®</sup> Super Suction Pump**



**PROVEN OIL SPILL TECHNOLOGY**

**DESMI  
RO-CLEAN**

[www.desmiro-clean.com](http://www.desmiro-clean.com)

UK Tel. +44 (0)2380 829751 DK Tel. +45 6548 1610



The main feature:

## In addition to the triennial series, other oil spill events are held around the globe

To illustrate this development following a major oil spill, these are the most significant events scheduled for this year, so the message is that Conferences are responding to last years oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.



2011 WMU - IMO Conference on  
**Oil Spill Risk Management**  
Preparedness, Response and Contingency Planning  
in the Shipping and Offshore Industries  
7 - 9 March, Malmö, Sweden

### WMU/IMO AT MALMO IN MARCH 2011

A major international conference on oil spill risk management to be held in Malmö 7-9 March 2011. The impressive

line-up of speakers includes ADM, USCG Thad Allen (ret.) and BP Chairman Carl-Henrik Svanberg and other industry and government policy makers as well as leading academics specialists. Visit [www.ukspill.org/wmu](http://www.ukspill.org/wmu)



### OFFSHORE ARABIA IN DUBAI IN MARCH 2011

Offshore Arabia Conference is supported by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), National and International Oil Companies, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Oil, Gas and Tanker Companies, the

United Nations University, International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting (OAPEC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and so forth. For more information please visit [www.offshorearabia.ae](http://www.offshorearabia.ae)



### International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition

Held in conjunction with:  
SINGAPORE  
maritimeweek  
2011

11 - 13 April 2011  
Resorts World™ Sentosa, Singapore

### ICOPCE IN SINGAPORE IN APRIL 2011

The 7th biennial ICOPCE 2011 will be held from 11 to 13 April 2011, and is a key event in the Singapore Maritime Week calendar. Organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, the International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition is the only international event in Asia focusing on environment

challenges facing the Shipping and Oil communities, and related stakeholders.

The event has long established itself as the major industry conference to addresses current challenges in safe transportation of oil, chemicals and petrochemicals. It offers attendees the latest trends in prevention, preparedness, response and clean-up of chemical and oil marine spills. Visit [www.icopce.com](http://www.icopce.com)



### SAFER SEAS III IN MAY 2011 - for safer seas and cleaner

Tuesday 10 to Friday, May 13, 2011 at the Congress Centre of Quartz - Brest. Brest Metropole Oceane, in coordination with the Technology

Brest Iroise and with the support of the competitiveness cluster Sea, European Union, Britain and the Region of the Department of Finistère, is organizing the third edition of Safer Seas is dedicated to the issues of maritime safety and security, in May 2011.

Visit [www.safarseas-brest.org](http://www.safarseas-brest.org)

# THE RAW REPORT

## THE UPGRADED UK SPILL ACCREDITATION SCHEME

Over the last 12 months significant efforts have been made by members of UKSpill in making improvements to the accreditation process in order to provide a more robust assessment of contractors wanting to join the scheme and those wanting to remain within the scheme.

The proposed changes to the scheme have been completed and were approved by the Steering Group at the most recent meeting in October 2010. The accreditation process requires all member companies to comply with the scheme to maintain the support of the agencies including the EA, MCA, SEPA and NIEA. The objectives for UKSpill in making the improvements to the scheme were as follows:

- Raising industry Standards and establishing service benchmarks principally through managing the UKSpill Contractors Accreditation Scheme;
- Sharing information amongst its members by providing networking opportunities through regular meetings, and seminars, held across the UK;
- Building business for its members through a comprehensive online directory of members' products and services, and links to their websites; and
- Promoting the industry through organising national and international exhibitions and conferences to the industry, government, and the public through this website and through organising national and international exhibitions and conferences.

In addition to the changes to the scheme, 2010 saw the creation of a UK Spill Standards Committee whose principal objective is as follows:

"To propose the standards by which UK Spill Scheme Accredited companies will be

assessed, which the Agencies can support and to encourage continuing professional development within the UK Spill industry in line with advances in technology, legislation and innovation."

The changes to the scheme are aimed at achieving a more robust assessment for accrediting and reaccrediting companies, and rather than focusing on equipment, the new scheme will place a greater emphasis on members overall capability, on H&S planning and preparation, on training and competence and will have a greater reliance on visits, case studies and customer feedback.

Figure 1 below provides a summary of the scheme structure from standards compliance to re-assessment.

**Figure 1: UK Spill Accreditation Scheme Structure**



With respect to the first step on the scheme, the Standards Compliance form is available on-line or as a form which can be sent to an applicant company seeking Accreditation. This form is completed by the applicant and the Scheme Assessor gives feedback to company and if the Assessor is satisfied the company is eligible and equipped for Accreditation, the Assessor visits the company on site to complete pre-qualification and module assessment.

The standards compliance assessment contains eight sections as follows:

- Policies;
- Organisation;
- Procedures and Company Arrangements;
- Risk Control;
- Training;
- Safety Records;
- Health; and
- Environmental Management and Control.

Each section is scored against a pass rate of 60% with a time limited improvement notice issued for those who do not achieve this and specific items have an automatic PASS/FAIL score (e.g. Insurances).

With regard to the subsequent general and specialist modules these are now as follows:

- General Module: Basic Spill Responder: All applicants must complete and pass.
- Specialist Modules: Competency Options in addition to Module 1.
  - Freshwater/Inland Water
  - Groundwater
  - Contaminated Soils
  - Tanker Rollover
  - Specialist Consultants

Two marine spill modules are also currently being finalised and these include:

- Marine Oil Spill with sub modules: Ports and Harbours, Coastal, Shoreline and Offshore; and
- Marine Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)

With regards to the assessor it is their role to make an independent judgement on a company's overall competence and suitability for accreditation based on the evidence gathered at the assessment. The award of accreditation should be based on a combination of practical experience shown by the applicant, competence through training and experience, equipment, case studies, volume of work successfully completed, client references.

There is to be an annual review of accreditation with bi-annual visits by the

assessor to each member company requiring full re-accreditation, with the assessment based on evidence and questioning which follows a similar process for each module.

The timetable for the changes to the scheme can be summarised as follows:

- In October 2010 the Accreditation Steering Group approved the upgrade proposals;
- All new applicants, and re-accreditations to use the upgraded Scheme content from October 2010;
- UK Spill seminars to promote and brief companies on upgrades to the Scheme over next 6 months;
- Review results of Upgraded Scheme in March 2011, report to the Steering Group; and
- Complete Review Marine and HNS modules by mid 2011.

The proposed scheme is a significant improvement on the original scheme which

had been developed from the days of BOSCA and the improvements will hopefully ensure that the scheme maintains the support of the Maritime and Environment Agencies around the UK. However, it is still regarded by RAW that a crucial step in UKSpill being regarded by the regulators and wider industry as a professional trade association is the publication of technically robust Codes of Practice for Inland and Marine Spill Response. It is still considered that such documents are likely to be fundamental to the benchmarking of competences for UK Spill members but the proposed changes to the accreditation scheme are recognised as a good step towards the establishment and assessment of the key competences that member companies and their staff should be able to demonstrate.

The RAW report written by:

Author : Dr. Jon Burton  
BSc PhD FGS MCIWEM CSci  
Technical Director, RAW



# RAW



## Sustainable Remediation Specialists

RAW's specialist skills are founded on cost-effective use of innovative technology and understanding the most effective way to manage & treat contamination.

SOIL & GROUNDWATER TREATMENT

MINIMISING WASTE

HEALTH & EXPOSURE MONITORING

R & D • Remediation • Innovation  
Delivered on time & on budget

**Tel: 0845 166 8491**  
**[www.raw-group.com](http://www.raw-group.com)**



Offices throughout the UK and Ireland

# In the News

## UK: BP SHUTS UK FIELD AFTER OIL LEAK

BP suffered an oil leak in the Dorset countryside late last year, causing such concern that its biggest onshore field in Western Europe has been shut down for the past two months.

BP launched a review of all its pipelines at the Wytch Farm site following the incident – less than a year since its Gulf of Mexico oil leak put the company's health and safety record under scrutiny.

Wytch Farm has not been producing its 25,000 barrels per day since November and the pipeline where the leak was discovered has been undergoing maintenance ever since. Robots have been sent down into all its pipes at the site to check their condition.



"Because of what happened last year, anything that looks like there could be a pipeline integrity issue means we are being extra careful," a BP spokesman said. "It was noticed when somebody observed a small amount of oil, from a pipeline encased in concrete and sand, had risen to the surface of the sand.

"We've replaced that section of pipe and as a precaution we've been inspecting all the key pipelines down there."

## EU: MARITIME SAFETY

Commission proposes updated mandate of the European maritime safety agency.

The European Commission has adopted a proposal modifying the mandate of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to enable it to deal with new challenges in an ever-changing world. EMSA is widely recognised as an important contributor to the European Union's maritime transport and safety policy in close cooperation with the Commission, the Member States and stakeholders from the sector. Developments since the agency's start in 2003 require now a limited update of its mandate.



### Speed, service and environmental integrity

- Depots nationwide
- Oil spill response, site audits, drain, forecourt & separator services
- Tank supply, installation, cleaning, repairs, testing and removal
- Fuel deliveries, installation services, uplifts & transfers, waste disposal and tankering

Oil and Environmental Services  
**0800 592827**  
24hr Emergency Response



Depots Nationwide  
T : 01423 850360  
[www.adlerandallan.co.uk](http://www.adlerandallan.co.uk)

# DEEPWATER HORIZON

## postscripts

### UK Secretary of State views enhancements to UK Oil Spill response capability

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the Rt Hon Chris Huhne, visited Oil Spill Response's (OSRL) base in Southampton to view the extent of the company's global oil spill response capability.

This capability has recently been enhanced by the arrival of two subsea containment devices, weighing 20 tonnes, which BP has transferred to the UK from the Gulf of Mexico as part of continuing efforts to share lessons

from the Macondo accident and enhance the UK's ability to respond promptly to a subsea oil spill.

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Chris Huhne, said: "Here in the UK we have one of the most demanding safety and regulatory regimes in the world, and I am determined that it will stay that way. That is why I welcome the work that Government and industry are doing to learn the lessons of the Gulf of Mexico, and in particular the work that the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG) is undertaking to develop equipment that could enhance industry's ability to deal with such an incident. The arrival of deepwater containment equipment here in Southampton is therefore an important development."

As part of the industry's commitment to share lessons from the accident widely, BP has made

available the two subsea containment devices for use by OSRL, on behalf of the UK oil and gas industry and the wider region. Associated subsea cutting equipment will also be available, based at contractors' premises in Aberdeen.

OSPRAG is working closely and sharing information with other international bodies and groups responding to the Gulf of Mexico incident. Given the global nature of the industry and deepwater exploration, it is both practical and efficient for all stakeholders for local responses to be optimised internationally. Work being done in the UK will help inform and complement work in other regions being co-ordinated by the Global Industry Response Group, under the direction of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP).

## OIL SPILL ISSUES FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS - LESSONS FOR THE UK

A marine oil spill seminar, jointly organised by the UK Spill Association and the Emergency Planning Society, was held at the Scottish Government offices, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh on 5 October 2010.

The seminar reviewed the Deepwater Horizon Spill, the realities of spill response and containment in a deepwater blowout, exploring the lessons that could be learned for the UK's own response systems. Speakers including BP North Sea considered the implications of wider use of dispersants in an offshore oil spill and where future technical developments lie. The event was attended by over 70 delegates from the oil industry and Government Agencies in Scotland, and from other parts of the United Kingdom.

**QUOTE FROM UKSPILL** – Glyn Humphries, Chairman of UKSpill, told the delegates that, "The spill industry in the UK has a reputation second to none in responding to spills around the globe but incidents such as Deepwater Horizon serve to remind everyone that we need to maintain our skills and preparedness."

The event was hosted by the Scottish Government, and supported by the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency, (MCA), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Scottish Coastal Forum and Oil & Gas UK, representing the UK offshore industry.

The MCA Response to Marine Incidents in the UK

Trained Responders

We have equipment, but do we have the people on the ground to deliver?

Level of trained and accredited responders:

safer lives, safer ships, cleaner seas

The MCA posed a question which the UKSPILL accreditation scheme answers with its pool of qualified and experienced oil spill responders.

## Company profile:

Vikoma was first established in 1967 as a BP project to develop solutions for oil spill response in the wake of the infamous Torrey Canyon oil spill. Now, 44 years on, Vikoma is still one of the most respected manufacturers of equipment for oil spill response in the world.

The Company was bought by the Aberdeen based, Energy Environmental Group in January 2007, owned by Mr Bob Rooney and Mr Peter Scholes. Both Bob and Peter were well acquainted with Vikoma, having both worked for the Company in senior roles during the 1990's and were confident of Vikoma's potential.

The new owners set ambitious plans for investment and growth and over a period of 5 years have transformed Vikoma into a highly profitable and highly respected manufacturer of quality products.

The major portion of the investment, in excess of £2.5 million, has been made in the fabric of the Company, specifically the building of new headquarters and factory in East Cowes on the Isle of Wight, just a short distance from the old factory building.

Bob Rooney, Chairman of the Energy Environmental Group, said "Both Peter and I are fully aware of the value of Vikoma, its reputation for quality and innovation is outstanding, but the limitations of the old factory were stifling the growth of the business and certainly did not match the quality

of our products – we felt it was essential to secure premises to match our standing as a world leading designer and manufacturer of oil spill response equipment."

Peter Scholes explained, "Much of Vikoma's success can be attributed to the skills, expertise and loyalty of its staff – we were keen to ensure we re-sited the factory within easy reach of the workforce. The new premises give us around 50% more space and modern, flexible facilities – we have been able to bring in new working practices, lean manufacturing techniques and new personnel."

**"The new premises give us around 50% more space and modern, flexible facilities..."**

"The first big test of the facilities was in response to the Gulf of Mexico incident – Vikoma went into round the clock production, completing an unprecedented number of units within the space of 3 weeks – there was no way we could have delivered the goods to that timescale in the old factory"

Vikoma has now settled in the new building and to celebrate in style invited a number of guests to celebrate with them.

# Vikoma - one of the best known brand names in the oil spill sector - continues to grow.





## VIP's Visit Vikoma

In December 2010 Vikoma welcomed VIP's, from all over the world, to the new factory and headquarters. Representatives from each department explained to guests about the processes and the investment made to provide an even better service to customers.

Visitors were guided through the premises to understand the flow of work through the company. Guests met the sales and marketing team, who provide the main point of contact for our customers across the world, and visited the engineering team, whose expertise is key

to providing the highly efficient and often bespoke solutions Vikoma is famed for; and they learned about the investment made in new 3D CAD software. A comprehensive tour of the manufacturing areas included the neoprene boom shop, to learn about the unique processes Vikoma uses to build booms, such as the iconic HI Sprint; the PU Boom shop where they saw the processes involved in constructing complicated designs such as Shoreguardian boom; the fitting shop where they saw, first hand, the considerable investment in equipment and lean manufacturing techniques which have improved the work flows, productivity and output.

Guests also saw the site of Vikoma's, soon to be built, state of the art test facility. The new facility has just been granted planning permission and work will begin imminently to build a comprehensive R & D area complete

with a test tank and equipment for product development.

Denis Healy, Managing Director of Vikoma said, "All the visitors were impressed with the new spacious facilities and several commented on how it increases the capacity of the industry at such a key moment in time, as well the passion exuded by Vikoma personnel for the products they build."

The move into new larger premises represents a significant capital investment in the building, fit out and new machinery and work stations. In addition Vikoma is investing heavily in people, including key appointments, manufacturing personnel, apprentice programmes, training and software.

This investment will assist Vikoma in its quest for continued growth in the future, to maintain its reputation for innovation, quality and reliability.

## The Future:

Not being ones to sit back and become complacent, Vikoma has an ongoing programme of investment for the next 5 years.

One of the key targets is development of new products.... The principles and techniques of containment and recovery have changed very little over the past two decades – Vikoma is currently advancing a research project with the Norwegian Organisation for Cleaner Seas (NOFO), to design a product which will be able to contain spills in conditions way beyond the current limitations of wave heights and currents. Initial prototype testing has offered up some very exciting results and has opened

up a whole new way to contain and recover oil in heavy seas and strong currents.

"We have recorded some surprising results from testing and will be developing ideas with the aim of bringing new products to the market – this new product will have applications around the world but may also offer a solution for the problems faced by deepwater drilling operators – especially in difficult conditions such as the North Sea and North Atlantic areas." says Neil Plater, Head of Product Development for Vikoma.

In addition Vikoma is also working on new designs for ancillary products such as powerpacks. We are exploring new markets for the product encouraged by recent orders for a specially designed unit for military use. Vikoma's engineering expertise was the deciding factor in winning this large contract and was almost entirely due to our ability to

engineer products to meet the exacting demands of military use in hostile conditions.

The Energy Environmental Group, Vikoma's Parent company, owns two other companies in the energy sector. Screw Conveyer Ltd and Rotawave Ltd. Rotawave is a research and development company on the brink of launching a product which could revolutionise the way the drilling industry remediates drill cuttings. The Rotawave uses microwave technology to remove the oil from cuttings to provide a usable commodity and inert mud. The Rotawave technology also has applications in the production of bio-fuels from waste wood products, this is an area which has generated significant interest from potential customers around the world.

Vikoma will showcase its high quality products and will be exhibiting at the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) in May this year.

# Vikoma International Ltd



World leading designers and manufacturers of high quality equipment for oil spill response



innovation

quality

reliability

ports • coastal • offshore • rivers • lakes • ice • industrial



[www.vikoma.com](http://www.vikoma.com)

sales@vikoma.com  
T: +44 (0)1983 200560  
F: +44 (0)1983 200561



# The exhibition issue for responders

Since 2006, there has been just one principal oil spill conference/exhibition each year across the globe. Last year, Spillcon ([www.spillcon.com](http://www.spillcon.com)) in Australia. This year, IOSC in the USA, and in 2012, Interspill in Europe.

For many members of UKSpill, in particular the Inland Spill Responders, who become members by accreditation under the UK Spill Contractors Accreditation Scheme, these events are quite remote from their day to day business and are not seen as relevant to their business - this may be changing in the future?

Whilst most exhibitors at these events are producers of hardware, the events do generate opportunities for service providers and oil spill responders. The conferences reflect on the history of marine spill response, but the reality is that the world is changing, and the traditional marine spill from tankers has declined sharply, replaced with other disasters such as Dalian in China.

The experience last year with the offshore blowout in the Gulf of Mexico makes the point that the spill market is changing, and has created a new aspect for the industry. It is one which has raised issues relating directly to the Inland Spill responder. During the Gulf of Mexico spill up to 40,000 people were involved dealing with the spill, but only a very small number 2-3% were actually trained, or had experience.

One of many conclusions from this spill is that there is need for more trained persons to be available, which, in the UK is where the Accredited Inland spill responders could contribute, as effectively as a Reserve Force, almost on the military model.

The UK Accreditation Scheme has over 80 companies, with close to 1000 trained and experienced personnel - this is close to what the US had available as part of the response to the Gulf of Mexico spill.

This group has the potential to be part of the armoury to deal with major incidents, not just in the UK but internationally. Whilst the UK Scheme has accredited companies outside the UK, in the Republic of Ireland, it has just accredited its first company in the Mediterranean. This is because accreditation can take place on line, and is a reflection of the investment made by UKSpill to put the Scheme into a format on a website where remote assessment can take place, always backed up by on site inspections.

## THE POTENTIAL NOW EXISTS TO BUILD A RESERVE FORCE OF RESPONDERS ACROSS BORDERS

This is where the Inland Spill Responder could see more relevance at the Oil Spill conferences in their region. The value of this trained and experienced Force needs recognition, and the opportunity for a Local Responder to sign up to become available for international duties is an obvious way forward.

The more traditional aspects of these events has been a clear split between the Exhibition sales and the science/academic basis of the Conference. The world has moved to become more integrated in many areas, and the lesson for the Oil Spill events is that change is needed to back up the primary objective to network, and to ensure that all resources have that opportunity.

This industry is focussed on the needs of responding to an unpredictable emergency, the oil spill, and also the chemical spill. Success is based on cooperation of all parties, hence the need to network. This message resonated in the post 2009 Interspill market research, this will be basis for the programme for Interspill 2012 in London.

## INDUSTRY EVENTS: PREVIEWS

### FINLAND: TOUCH OF OIL CONFERENCE

16-17 FEBRUARY 2011, PORVOO, FINLAND

Details at [www.touchofoil.com/](http://www.touchofoil.com/)

### SWEDEN: 2011WMU/IMO OIL SPILL RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

7-9 MARCH 2011 - MALMO, SWEDEN

Details at [www.ukspill.org/wmu](http://www.ukspill.org/wmu)

### UK: LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY - MARINE POLLUTION SEMINAR

16 - 17 MARCH 2011, LONDON, UK

Details at [www.ukspill.org/lloyds](http://www.ukspill.org/lloyds)

### FRANCE: SAFER SEAS III 2011

TUESDAY 10 - FRIDAY 13 MAY 2011, BREST, FRANCE

Details at [www.saferseas-brest.org](http://www.saferseas-brest.org)

### USA: IOSC 2011

23-26 MAY 2011, PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

Details at [www.iosc.org](http://www.iosc.org)

## Stop Press

## SPILLALERT FACTS

- 4 issues published by UKSpill
- 1000 print copies per issue, emailed to 5000+
- 18-26% opened
- 8-9% downloaded as a PDF

**UKSpill**  
ASSOCIATION

Unit 1, Riverside Business Park, Buxton Road, Bakewell,  
Derbyshire DE45 1GS United Kingdom

T +44 (0)7793 649 643 E [info@ukspill.org](mailto:info@ukspill.org) [www.ukspill.org](http://www.ukspill.org)

SpillAlert is designed and produced by Grafika Ltd.  
Email: [design@grafika-uk.com](mailto:design@grafika-uk.com) [www.grafika-uk.com](http://www.grafika-uk.com)  
g/r/1.0m/01.11/7832