



## N° 233 E – News from March 2015

### Emergency response

During March, Cedre was called upon as part of exercises relating to chemical spills by **EMSA**, within the framework of the **Mar-Ice** Network, and by the French maritime authority for the North Sea. Several enquiries were also made in relation to small-scale spills (sheen in a storm basin; pollution in a sinkhole in a karst landscape; well or cavity formed by dissolution in limestone) and an incident involving a chemical (spill in a welding workshop at a school).

### In short

#### TRAINING

- ▶ See our online [2015 training course calendar](#).

### New website

After many months of development and content update work, Cedre launched a brand new version of its website on 24th March. Visit [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr) to find out all about Cedre's activities via this new simple and attractive version. The "Our online resources" section provides information on past spills, technical spill response documentation and a brand new section presenting the research projects in which Cedre is involved. The "Our services on demand" section is designed to give you easy access to a wide range of services offered by Cedre, by guiding you towards the solutions that best meet your needs. The website, in both French and English, is compatible with mobile devices.

### A new training season begins

March marked the beginning of our annual programme of training courses at our facilities: aerial observation (16-18 March, 15 participants), crisis management (23-26 March, 11 participants), response at sea and on the shoreline (20 March-3 April, 15 participants). Additionally, training sessions were run on the island of Sein for the **PNMI** and the municipality (3-4 March, 25 participants) and in Vannes for the **CNFPT** during a course for port supervisors (13 March, 13 participants). Finally, as part of an effort to reinforce our technical collaboration with the Finistère Fire Brigade, we were involved in two level 3 chemical risk refresher sessions by hosting each group for a day, consisting of a morning of lectures on the management of chemical spills and an afternoon of practical exercises on building different types of custom-made barriers.

### Launch of the POSOW 2 project

Funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO) and coordinated by Cedre, the 2-year **POSOW 2** project (Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline Cleanup and Oiled Wildlife) involves REMPEC, **ISPRA**, FEPORIS (*Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperacion de la Comunidad Valenciana*, Spain), AASTMT (Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt) and DG-MARINWA (General Directorate of Maritime and Inland Waters, Turkey). All the project partners met at Cedre on 3rd and 4th March for a coordination and kick-off meeting. As with POSOW 1, the main aim is to develop training materials and manuals, in different languages of the Mediterranean area, so as to run training courses in Mediterranean countries. The main issues addressed are volunteer management, oiled shoreline assessment, oiled shoreline clean-up, oiled wildlife response, assistance to fishermen involved in response on water and waste management. For further information and access to the training materials, please visit the website [www.posow.org](http://www.posow.org).

### INTERSPILL

The conference and exhibition **Interspill 2015** was held in Amsterdam at the RAI Convention Centre from 24th to 26th March. Cedre was involved in preparing the event. Five representatives of Cedre attended the event, which comprised opening and closing plenaries, 20 conference sessions, 4 science workshops, 4 spill industry seminars, a poster presentation session and an exhibition with around 100 exhibitors. Furthermore, 6 educational short courses were organised the day before the conference and exhibition officially opened its doors. Cedre was in charge of organising science workshops which were run in the exhibition hall and each lasted approximately one hour. Each topic was introduced by three short presentations before opening up the debate. The four chosen themes were: dispersant breakthrough, bioremediation, HNS pollution and impact assessment.

In addition, Cedre ran a stand in a joint space with Sycopol representatives.

## 91st PERF meeting

On 31st March and 1st April 2015, Cedre and Total hosted the 91st **PERF** meeting in Brest. The general theme of this two-day conference was "Marine Environmental Issues". Three sessions were held: Accidental spills, Chronic discharges and Global issues. The event was held at Océanopolis, close to Cedre. Over 55 engineers and scientists, including representatives of different oil industry sectors, had the opportunity to discuss the possibilities of collaboration on research projects. The speakers addressed the latest technological progress in terms of environmental impact assessment and spill response. The event was attended by representatives of the oil industry (Chevron, ExxonMobil, Phillips 66, Saudi Aramco, Shell, Total), consultants (CH2MHill, CLS, GeoVille, Wild Berry Enterprise), academics (UBO, IUEM) and associations (Cedre, CONCAWE, ITOPF, SAMS, Vigipol, World Ocean Council). Alongside this meeting, a visit of the facilities at Ifremer and Cedre was organised to give attendees insight into the activities of each of these organisations and the maritime dynamics of the Brest region. The event was sponsored by Brest Métropole.

## 20th Cedre Information Day

Around 50 participants from various backgrounds (administrations, industry) attended the 20th Cedre Information Day in the comfortable auditorium of the Ministry of Ecology in Paris La Défense. The theme chosen for this year's event was "In situ burning and other alternative techniques". During the morning session various research projects and studies in progress were reviewed. The theme of oil slick burning, a popular topic since the *Deepwater Horizon* rig disaster in the United States in 2010, was widely developed by Cedre and INERIS. This topic gave rise to many questions from the audience. The use of sorbents in the event of an oil or HNS spill as well as bioremediation were two other techniques addressed during this first session. During the afternoon session, these same issues were addressed from different angles. The University of Crete presented the *Kill Spill* project. OSRL's industry vision and ITOPF's field experience rounded up this review of the use of these alternative techniques for spill response on water.

## MEDESS-4MS project completed on 31st March 2015

The **MEDESS-4MS** project (MEditerranean DEcision Support System for Marine Safety) came to a close on 31st March 2015, after three years and two months of collaboration between 21 partners from seven Mediterranean countries. Two agents from Cedre attended the closing meeting in Rome, at the headquarters of the Italian Coast Guard, on 19th and 20th March. This project, initiated under the MED Programme and co-funded by ERDF, resulted in the development of modelling tools based on the integration of oil slick drift simulation models available for the Mediterranean and metocean databases covering this area. The results of simulations can be displayed in a **GIS** offering a range of functionalities relating to the sensitivity of the shoreline, the position of protected areas and response equipment. A specific user interface was developed to provide access to all the services offered by the system. The tools are to undergo ongoing maintenance in order to assure their availability for end-users. Furthermore, consolidation and dissemination of the project results could be supported by an application for a future project within the framework of the first call for projects under the 2014-2020 MED Programme, in June 2015.

## REMPEC Draft Regional Strategy for 2016-2021

On 11th and 12th March, in Malta, **REMPEC** gathered together around 40 national experts from Mediterranean coastal States to put forward their Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021). An agent from Cedre attended this meeting alongside the SG Mer representative, Ms Marie-Sophie Dufau-Richet. As an introduction, Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, presented the new Programme Officer (Prevention) appointed by REMPEC, Mr Franck Lauwers. The Draft Regional Strategy comprises 23 priorities, all discussed in detail in order to attribute short or medium term priority to the actions expected of the States and REMPEC. A priority which was discussed at length was priority n°13 which aims to examine the possibility of recognising all or part of the Mediterranean Sea as an SOx Emission Control Area. Another priority (n°6), supported by France, focuses on the improvement of spill monitoring and the control and surveillance of illicit discharges. This meeting was the first round of discussions. The Draft Regional Strategy approved at this meeting of national experts is now to be submitted at the 11th meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, to be held in Malta from 15th to 17th June 2015, for further examination.

## Response product validation

Upon request by MOVENA S.A., the floating oil sorbent "AVISORB PAD 16H" for use at sea or in inland waters, in the form of pillows, was tested by Cedre's laboratory. Given its performance, it has been added to the [list of floating sorbents](#) published by Cedre.