

Highlights



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Five years on: oil spill project achieves industry 'step change'

After five years, the Oil Spill Response Joint Industry Project (OSR-JIP) is coming to a close.

Founded in the aftermath of the Macondo and Montara incidents, the JIP was a key initiative of IOGP's Global Industry Response Group (GIRG), which focused on major incident prevention, intervention and response.

As part of its remit, the OSR-JIP produced:

- 24 Good Practice Guides (GPGs), covering response, strategy, preparedness and impacts. These replaced the *IPIECA Oil Spill Report Series* published between 1990 and 2008.
- 11 technical and research reports, developed to communicate technical good practice or to make it accessible to external parties. Subjects included work on dispersant licensing and approvals, dispersant logistics, *in situ* burning equipment, post-spill monitoring, oil spill response preparedness for offshore installations, oil spill removal organization (OSRO) assessment and volunteer management case studies.
- 11 small research projects to find better methods for comparing the efficiency of dispersants against various types of crude and to determine aspects of response such as residue characterization from *in situ* burning operations.

- Several outreach and communication materials. Among these are simple videos/animations, presentations for a variety of audiences and materials for company use in-house. A 'Confident Ambassador' programme trained hundreds of industry staff worldwide to raise awareness of progress in oil spill response.

The OSR-JIP also carried out over 140 visits, workshops and seminars in over 25 countries. By the time it winds up at the end of June this year, each of the OSR-JIP's GPGs will have been translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian: some will also be available in German and Italian.

The OSR-JIP has been managed on IOGP's behalf by IPIECA, which has over 30 years' experience in oil spill response research.

Commenting on the OSR-JIP achievements, IOGP Executive Director Gordon Ballard said, 'When it comes to oil spill response, we are seeing a step change in understanding. This five-year project has led to new strategies, better preparedness and more effective responses. For all of these we have the 19 funding companies to thank, the people throughout the industry who participated in individual projects and Rob Cox of IPIECA who so successfully managed the OSR-JIP.'

The OSR-JIP GPGs can currently be found on <http://www.ipieca.org/resources>. They will soon be available on <http://www.iogp.org/Our-library> as well.

Germany gives gas the nod

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who leads the world's fourth biggest economy, has gone on record in favour of gas.

Speaking on 14 March to the VKU, the association of local German utilities at their meeting in Berlin, she said: *'more than 40 million people in Germany use natural gas to heat their homes. That is half of the country's population. That is why we need to see the feed in of renewables and the gas sector very closely together.'*



Photo: Federal Government/Steffen Kugler

Angela Merkel

Safeguarding marine life and the world's energy future

According to the International Energy Agency, oil and gas will still be needed in 2040 to meet about half of the world's growing energy needs – just as they do now. And, as the *World Ocean Review* reports, about one third of oil and gas production comes from offshore.

Since marine seismic surveys are critical in finding offshore oil and gas, IOGP and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC) have collaborated on a position paper that assesses the impact of such work on marine mammals.

This joint report concludes that 'After more than 50 years of worldwide seismic surveys and more than 15 years of extensive peer-reviewed scientific research, there remains no evidence that sound from properly mitigated seismic surveys has had any significant impact on any marine populations.'

The paper provides insights into the various aspects of marine sound, the techniques of seismic surveying and the mitigation measures in place to minimize any negative impact that oil and gas seismic work might have on marine populations. These measures include:

- Pre-programme planning that includes risk assessments and management
- Sound modeling that helps to avoid surveying in specific locations and during specific periods that might have particular sensitivity for some marine life
- Soft-start techniques that involve a gradual increase in the loudness of the sound source to allow animals to move away as the sound grows louder
- Exclusion zones of at least 500 metres before seismic activity begins
- Visual monitoring that alerts operators to any breach of an exclusion zone
- Towed passive acoustic monitoring that detects marine mammal vocalizations before seismic work begins.



The paper is based on an 11-year, US\$55 million research joint industry programme (JIP) that was the largest non-governmental project ever undertaken in the field. It studied and developed a range of tools to better understand the behaviour of marine mammals in their environment. These tools include animal tracking, satellite tags, improved passive acoustic detection and classification techniques. The JIP also developed methodologies to assess subtle behavioural and physiological responses to sound associated with offshore oil and gas activities.

Visit www.soundandmarinelife.org for more information on the JIP's findings.

To download the position paper, click on to: <http://www.iogp.org/pubs/576.pdf>

Human factors take the stage in Lisbon

IOGP Safety & Security Director Chris Hawkes represented the Association at Galp Energia's Health, Safety, Environment & Quality Conference in Lisbon on 14 March. Addressing delegates from throughout the company, he focused on human factors and process safety leading indicators. These topics aligned with Galp's own emphasis on 'teamwork, individual development, entrepreneurship, results orientation, innovation, continuous improvement and human and environmental safety.'

With over 150 years of history, Galp is Portugal's leading player in the energy sector – and an IOGP Member.

Chris shared the stage with Lord Cullen of Whitekirk, who led the public enquiry into the causes of – and lessons to be learned from – Piper Alpha. 'It was both gratifying and sobering to cover very similar themes in our presentations. That shows that despite significant and real advances



Francesco Ferrarini, Lord Cullen and Chris Hawkes

being made, some of the issues that were around almost 30 years ago when Piper Alpha exploded in the North Sea are still a concern today,' Chris says.

Appropriately, after the Galp Conference, IOGP's Human Factors Subcommittee (a part of the Safety Committee) met in Lisbon – again hosted by Galp and chaired by Francesco Ferrarini of ExxonMobil. 'We discussed several key issues, including

human factors in barrier management and demystifying human factors in incident investigations. We also finalized some guidance on behavioural markers for non-technical skills,' Chris says.

The Galp hosts included Jose Almeida and Marta Figueiredo who, Chris says, 'were responsible for the two superbly well organized events that provided a welcome Portuguese showcase for the Association's work.'

New standard integrates safety into design

The oil and gas industry has always recognized that facility design heavily influences the likelihood and consequences of major incidents and since Piper Alpha in 1987, considerable effort has gone into preventing further tragedies. Despite these improvements however, there have still been over 60 fatalities as a result of fires and explosions on offshore installations such as the incidents on Deepwater Horizon, Bombay High, Abkatun A and Gunashili No 10.

However, despite a worldwide focus on improving offshore safety, there had never been an international standard to guide project managers to integrate safety and environmental protection into the overall design process.

Now there is. The December 2016 publication of ISO 17776:2016, *Major accident hazard management during the design of new installations* was the work of an IOGP group of specialists in offshore safety, led by Nigel Savage (Shell).

It was a major collaborative exercise. The extended project team – working under IOGP's 'standards solution' put in place for ISO work – comprised more than 20 Members. Consultation on the draft document generated over 300 high quality comments and suggestions.

The standard is applicable to the design of both fixed offshore installations and FPSOs and covers all credible major accident

hazards which could affect people, the environment and assets. The focus of the standard is to eliminate high risk options at the screening-and-concept-selection-phase and then develop effective strategies to manage major accidents early in concept-definition-phase. Later phases of a project are focused on refining and delivering these strategies so that they will be effective in operations. The main body of the standard identifies the requirements for major accident hazard management including the commitment and accountability of project management, developing plans and strategies to manage major accident hazards and how these are to be applied during the various stages of a project life cycle.

The standard also contains extensive guidance on many of the commonly applied tools used to identify and assess major accidents and an extensive bibliography of related standards and guidance.

The new standard is available from the [ISO website](#).

Recent and upcoming meetings

March 2017

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

EU - Energy Market SC	1
Wells - Training & Competence TF ☎	1
Standards - Engineering Leadership Summit ☎	2
EU - Carbon Capture & Storage TF	3
EU - Financial Regulation TF ☎	3
Safety - Aviation SC	5-6
Environment - Environment Regional Seas SC ☎	8
Environment - Environmental Data SC ☎	8
EU - The Case for Gas SC ☎	9
JIP33 Steering ☎	9
EU - Emissions Trading SC ☎	13
Safety - Human Factors SC	14-15
JIP33 Steering ☎	16
Standards - Administration TF ☎	22
Geomatics - Geodesy SC	22
EU - Energy & Climate SC ☎	22
Standards - Information Standards SC ☎	22
Metocean Com	23
JIP33 Steering ☎	24
Management Com	28
JIP33 Steering	30-31

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Standards Com	3
EU - EU Marine & Environment SC	4
Safety - Safety Data SC	4-5
Environment Com	6-7
EU - Energy Market SC	12
Safety - Fabrication Yard Construction Safety Practices TF	18-20
JIP32 Steering ☎	19
EU - Emissions Trading SC ☎	20
Geomatics Com	24-25
EU Com	25
Standards - Material and Corrosion SC	25-26
Standards - Information Standards SC ☎	26

Meeting types are abbreviated as follows:

Committee (Com), Skype (S), Subcommittee (SC), Task Force (TF), Teleconference (☎), Webex (☎), Working Group (WG)

Europe rejects ban on Arctic E&P

The European Parliament has voted to reject a call to ban exploration and production in the Arctic. Also defeated was an amendment calling for a transition away from offshore drilling in general.

Meeting on 16 March in Strasbourg, the legislators did vote, by a narrow margin, to call for a non-binding ban on drilling in the 'icy Arctic waters of the EU and EEA'.

Commenting on the overall results, Christian Schwarck, IOGP's Deputy Director EU Affairs said, 'What happened in Strasbourg represents a positive outcome. It showed how by working closely together, IOGP's secretariat, Members and others (in this case NOROG, Norwegian officials and Nordic unions) can help to safeguard E&P activities.'



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