



PRESS RELEASE

ITOPF R&D Award 2018 goes to ExpOS'D

We are pleased to announce that the beneficiary of the 7th annual ITOPF R&D Award is ExpOS'D (Experimental Oil Spill Data-sharing), a research project led by the NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), in partnership with the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, the University of Essex (UK) and the Wageningen University & Research (Netherlands).

The Award will fund a one-year study to investigate the fate and behaviour of an oil slick subject to different dispersion mechanisms. The results will be used to validate and calibrate a dispersion model to allow decision makers to compare the benefits of chemical versus natural dispersion. In addition, the effects on the water column of the different dispersion techniques will be studied to determine whether there is evidence of enhanced aggregation as a precursor to marine oil-snow sedimentation and flocculation accumulation (MOSSFA).

ITOPF's Managing Director, Dr. Karen Purnell, said "This is a very relevant project given the controversy surrounding the use of dispersants during the DEEPWATER HORIZON incident and how this may or may not have contributed to the production of 'marine snow'" (a shower of organic material falling from upper waters to the deep ocean).

Since the ITOPF R&D Award was set up in 2011, £300,000 has already been distributed to six separate R&D projects worldwide on behalf of ITOPF's shipowner Members, Associates and their P&I insurers.

Information on the Award, including updates on previous award winners, can be found on our website: <http://www.itopf.com/in-action/r-d-award/>. Potential candidates for future awards should not hesitate to contact us if they have any questions regarding the Award by emailing rdaward@itopf.com.

Notes on ITOPF

1. The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) was established as a non-profit making service organisation in 1968. In the early days its principal function was the administration of the TOVALOP voluntary oil spill compensation agreement. However, since the early 1970s, ITOPF has also provided a broad range of technical services in the field of marine pollution to and on behalf of shipowners, their P&I insurers and other groups such as the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, as well as to the community at large.

2. ITOPF's Membership currently comprises over 7,900 owners and bareboat charterers of approximately 13,500 tank vessels with a total gross tonnage of about 426 million GT. The organisation also benefits from the participation of 792 million GT of non-tanker tonnage owned and operated by its Associates.

3. ITOPF's priority service is responding to accidental marine spills and the organisation's team of highly experienced technical staff are at constant readiness to travel anywhere in the world at a few hours' notice. ITOPF staff have attended on-site at almost 800 incidents around the world, giving the organisation unparalleled practical experience of the realities of combating major marine spills. ITOPF also:

- assesses the damage caused by spills to the environment and economic resources;
- provides advice on the technical merits of claims for compensation;
- conducts contingency planning, advisory and training assignments;
- produces a range of technical publications and films; and
- maintains various databases as well as a website at <http://www.itopf.com>

4. For further information contact:

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