

INDUSTRY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

Terms of Reference

(effective: August 2021)

Aims, Objectives and Management of Industry Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

ITAC is a technical forum, first established in 1996 to address oil spill preparedness and response issues of interest to industry members of IPIECA and OSRL. ITAC does not deliver tangible work items but offers a forum for knowledge sharing and information exchange to support outreach and communication for industry to reach a broad community of stakeholders.

ITAC's community includes oil industry (i.e., members of OSRL and other GRN OSROs), international organisations, governmental organisations, R&D institutes and academic bodies, and other organisations with a non-commercial interest in improving oil spill preparedness and response.

The connection with academia is an important feature, recognising that industry funding supports a significant amount of university-based research. Previously there has been a disconnect with the sharing of knowledge and outputs from these studies with "industry." ITAC seeks to bridge this gap.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the ITAC are to:

- Provide a forum for industry to share science, technology and engineering research into matters relevant to oil spill preparedness and response;
- Facilitate early industry engagement with future research topics in oil spill preparedness and response;
- Promote industry Good Practice with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) community and promote science-based decision-making, especially in dispersant research;
- Provide an inclusive network for organisations, with a shared ambition to improve spill preparedness and response to exchange information and good practice in a non-commercial environment;
- Engage and encourage new adherents and next generation interest in oil spill preparedness, response, technology, management.

This will enable ITAC to meet its objectives of:

- Bridging of research to response, by fostering knowledge and experience exchange between these communities;
- Promoting a science-based approach to response strategies, tools and techniques;
- Providing an outreach platform for OSRL to engage with the wider response community, to advocate science-based Good Practice on behalf of its membership.

Management

ITAC is managed by Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) as a Service Level Agreement deliverable via funding from Members' fees. ITAC meetings are therefore open to all OSRL Members and all OSRL members may join in shaping the direction of the ITAC.

An Advisory Group of OSRL Members, OSROs and oil spill research institutions is consulted on content, timing and location for annual face-to-face ITAC meetings. To the utmost, decisions are reached through consensus of the committee. This Advisory Group may vary over time reflecting changes in subject matter, the involvement of individuals and the support of oil companies as well as industry organisations. A list of current Advisory Group members is contained in Annex A and will be updated from time to time as necessary

ITAC's attendees include response experts from OSRL Member companies, international organisations such as ITOPF, IMO, IOPC etc, Governmental organisations (MCA, USCG, NOAA) and R&D institutes (SINTEF, CEDRE, GoMRI). Another key group are academic institutes and researchers involved in spill response projects where ITAC provides an opportunity to "bridge research to response".

Meeting Schedule

Since 2012 ITAC has operated on a cycle of annual face-to-face meetings, alternating between Europe and North America, responding to the "gravitational pull" of the membership. Note a similar forum "Regional Industry Technical Advisory Group ("RITAG") exists in Asia-Pacific although there is no direct crossover or affiliation with this initiative.

The annual ITAC Forum or meetings are typically three days in duration and are co-hosted by an academic institution undertaking related work of relevance to, and/or funded by industry. Meetings can either be "stand-alone" or taking synergy from co-located industry meetings and conferences.

The pandemic required ITAC to provide a virtual offering in 2020 which has both advantages (e.g inclusivity, no travel, cost savings etc) and drawbacks (no direct engagement, different time zones etc). Going forwards, both virtual and face-to-face models (or a hybrid) options can be considered as viable delivery modes.

ITAC may also host or co-host additional seminars / workshops as circumstances allow or opportunities arise.

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ANNEX A

CURRENT LIST OF ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

(effective August 2021)

BP

Chevron

ExxonMobil

Oxy

Shell

ITOPF

NOFO

OSRL

CEDRE

Ohmsett

Sintef

Canada Department of Fisheries & Oceans

Maritime New Zealand