OESI Announces Jim Pettigrew as Director of Operations

Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) Principal Investigator, Dr. M. Sam Mannan, has named former Navy Captain James Pettigrew as the Director of Operations. OESI provides a forum for dialogue, shared learning and cooperative research among academia, government, industry, and other non-governmental organizations in offshore-related technologies and activities that help ensure environmentally safe and responsible offshore operations. Pettigrew, who retired from the Navy, assumed his new position on May 12.

“Jim Pettigrew comes to us with three decades of worldwide maritime experience, including operations, risk assessment, and program management,” said Dr. Mannan. “As we develop and mature OESI, while striving toward environmentally safe and responsible offshore operations, I believe Jim has the experience, drive and leadership abilities to be a great asset to the OESI team and our partners.”

In the Navy, Pettigrew worked predominantly in operational oceanography, surface warfare, and information systems management. He served most recently as Chief of Staff for the Commander of Naval Meteorology and Oceanography. There he was responsible for the direction and leadership of a team of 150 people, executing a $300 million annual budget, the operations of 4,000 personnel worldwide, the nation’s Master Clock, two world-class supercomputing facilities, and six military Oceanographic Survey Ships.

Pettigrew received his Master’s of Science from the Naval Postgraduate School and received his Bachelor’s of Science from Texas A&M University. He is the recipient of numerous military awards.
Message from the Management Team—

The internal management team of Dr. Sam Mannan, Principal Investigator of the lead partner institution (Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station-Mary Kay O’Connor Process Safety Center), and the co-Investigators Dr. Rashid Hasan (Texas A&M University Petroleum Engineering Department) Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti (University of Houston), Dr. Tadeusz Patzek (University of Texas) are proud to launch the first Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) newsletter - OceaNews. Joining the team this month is Jim Pettigrew as our new Director of Operations. In addition, a search is on-going for a program manager position for the activities at the University of Houston and the University of Texas.

OESI plans to publish newsletters to provide communication to all stakeholders on the activities of OESI on a regular basis. This first newsletter is designed to announce the creation of OESI and detail the activities and plans for the first 200 days.

We believe we were chosen for the operation and maintenance of OESI for our expertise in safety, ability to bring together stakeholders, and our experience in partnering with industry while maintaining an unbiased and independent perspective.

Based on this expertise, and in consultation with BSEE, future OESI activities will involve intensive collaboration and interaction with stakeholders. The first event entitled, “Risk Awareness, Risk Perception and Using the Awareness and Perception in Making Operational Decisions on a Continuing Basis in Oil and Gas Operations,” was held on May 12-13, 2014 in Houston, TX. Detailed information on this forum and other activities are provided in this newsletter.

We look forward to working with all of you to improve operations and safety in ocean energy.

M. Sam Mannan  Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Rashid Hasan  Tadeusz Patzek

OceaNews, Vol. 1, No. 1  2  Spring 2014
**BSEE Announces Selection of Management Team for OESI**

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) announced that a team of Texas institutions led by the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station's (TEES) Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center has been selected to manage the Ocean Energy Safety Institute.

United States congressman Bill Flores (R-Texas) attended the press conference and praised the collaboration between government and academia. "The offshore energy industry has significant impact upon our energy security and the national economy," Flores said, "and it is imperative that government, industry and the scientific community work together to address challenges and encourage innovation through technology, risk management, safety and environmental protection. Any government oversight must be rooted in evidence-based research to ensure a sound decision-making process and I believe by including academic partners, this initiative will succeed."

The five-year agreement, with $5 million in total funding from BSEE, will provide a forum for dialogue, shared learning and cooperative research among academia, government, industry, and other non-government organizations in offshore-related technologies and activities that help ensure environmentally safe and responsible offshore operations. TEES is partnering with Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston to manage the institute. *(Continued on Page 5)*

---

From left: Associate Dean Hanadi Rafai, Dr. Tadeusz Patzek, Director Brian Slaerno, Dean Katherine Banks, Representative Bill Flores, Dr. M Sam Mannan, and Dr. Rashid Hasan.
OESI Activities and Plans for the First 200 Days

On November 7, 2013, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Department of Interior announced that the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station’s (TEES) Mary Kay O’Connor Process Safety Center had been selected to manage the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (Institute). The mission of the OESI is provide a forum for dialogue, shared learning and cooperative research among academia, government, industry and other non-government organizations in offshore-related technologies and activities that help ensure environmentally safe and responsible offshore operations. OESI represents a partnership between Texas A&M University, University of Texas, and University of Houston.

The Institute stems from a recommendation from the Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee, a federal advisory group comprised of representatives from industry, federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the academic community. The Institute is an important source of unbiased, independent information and will not have any regulatory authority over the offshore industry. OESI is a collaborative venture that will also include involvement on science and technology issues from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

OESI will provide recommendations and technical assistance to BSEE related to emerging technologies and the best available and safest technologies (BAST). In addition, it will develop and maintain an equipment failure monitoring system and train Federal employees to enable them to remain current on state-of-the-art technology. The Institute will also promote collaboration among Federal agencies, industry, standards organizations, academia, and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Information on issues related to offshore research and best practices will be shared with industry, government, and the public through Institute held forums.

Since the announcement, the partner universities in consultation with BSEE have been busy planning to get programs established and move forward. This newsletter provides a description of the various planned activities and the schedule for the next first 200 days. As envisioned, each of the OESI activities will involve intensive collaboration and interaction with the various stakeholders. A summary of the planned activities for the first 200 days is given below.

An item of highest interest and significance was the hiring of the OESI Director. On May 12, Jim Pettigrew began working full time as the Director of Operations. More about Jim Pettigrew is available on Page 1.

OESI plans a series of forums where session attendees will discuss the development of outreach and relationship building opportunities between OESI, industry, academia, and other non-governmental organizations. They will also cover topics such as risk, research, failure data reporting, best available and safest technologies, and human factors related to risk. More information on the forums will be announced as details become available.

On May 12-13, 2014, the first of these forums was held in Houston, entitled: “Risk Awareness, Risk Perception and Using the Awareness and Perception in Making Operational Decisions on a Continuing basis.” The objective of this forum was to promote the dialogue and shared learning among academia, government, industry, and other non-governmental organizations on topics like risk informed decision making, QRA methodology, aspects of operation concerned with (Continued on page 6)
BSEE Continued— "We are tremendously proud that TEES and the other Texas university partners have been recognized for their significant contributions to deep water technology and safety by being chosen to manage the institute," said John Sharp, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. "I am confident that this team will lead offshore-related activities into a period of transformation."

BSEE Director Brian Salerno traveled to College Station for the announcement and toured facilities and spoke with university professors, TEES researchers, and officials from the University of Houston and the University of Texas.

"I look forward to working closely with our partners at the Institute on finding ways to improve safety offshore," said Salerno. "The Institute will develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that serves as a center of expertise in offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production technology, including frontier areas, such as high temperature/high pressure reservoirs, deepwater, and Arctic exploration and development."

The Institute stems from a recommendation from the Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee, a federal advisory group comprised of representatives from industry, federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the academic community. The Institute will be an important source of unbiased, independent information and will not have any regulatory authority over the offshore industry. It will be a collaborative venture that will also include involvement on science and technology issues from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

"The three partner universities represent a unique combination of capabilities and resources needed to address the needs for the Institute," said Dr. M. Sam Mannan, director of the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center and PI for the project. "We applaud BSEE for supporting this major undertaking of national importance that will impact ocean energy safety for the nation and world for years to come."

The Institute will provide recommendations and technical assistance to BSEE related to emerging technologies and the best available and safest technologies (BAST). In addition, it will develop and maintain an equipment failure monitoring system and train Federal employees to enable them to remain current on state-of-the-art technology. The Institute will also promote collaboration among Federal agencies, industry, standards organizations, academia, and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Information on issues related to offshore research and best practices will be shared with industry, government, and the public through Institute held forums.
risk-based decision making, case histories of decision making, risk informed decision making on design phase vs. day-to-day basis, failure rate and other data needs, and how risk assessment can best be used in regulation. This OESI kick-off event was a success at bringing together all involved in these efforts.

On July 9-10, 2014, OESI will hold its next forum entitled: “Eliminating Barriers to Data Sharing.” Similar to the risk forum, the objective of this forum is to promote the dialogue and shared learning among academia, government, industry, and other non-governmental organizations on topics like data gaps, responsibility for data collection and analysis, voluntary vs. regulatory approach, breakdown barriers of data exchange, and incentives from BSEE and other organizations.

In September, experts in offshore energy-related technologies and activities will be invited to discuss and develop a “Roadmap for the Ocean Energy Safety Research.” Research related to offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production technology, including technology specific to deepwater and artic exploration and development, that is being performed by industry, academia, and governments throughout the world will be discussed in order to identify key technological and regulatory gaps in that research.

Finally, two additional forums will be organized, one forum will focus on the Best Available and Safest Technologies (BAST) and another will highlight the role of human factors in ocean energy safety. More information on all these forums will be announced as details become available.

**RISK FORUM**

**May 12-13, 2014**

OESI’s inaugural event, a two-day forum entitled: “Risk Awareness, Risk Perception and using the Awareness and Perception in Making Operational Decisions on a Continuing Basis” was held in Houston this past May. The objective of this forum was to promote dialogue and shared learning among academia, government, industry, and other non-governmental organizations on topics like risk informed decision making, QRA methodology, aspects of operation concerned with risk based decision making, case histories of decision making, risk informed decision making on design phase vs. day-to-day basis, failure rate and other data needs, and how can risk assessment be best used in regulation.

For more photos from the Risk Forum, visit oesi.tamu.edu.
The primary mission of the OESI is to provide a forum for dialogue, shared learning, and cooperative research among academia, government, industry, and other non-governmental organizations, in offshore energy-related technologies and activities that ensure safe and environmentally responsible offshore operations. The OESI will coordinate and focus an effort to identify scientific and technological gaps and to recommend improvement of drilling and production equipment, practices, and regulation. OESI will gather, consider, and harmonize the proposals promoted by other research and development centers and other groups to inform BSEE on technological and other developments within the offshore industry. Additionally, the OESI would provide a forum for the continuous education and training of BSEE and BOEM employees to ensure that the federal workforce maintains the same level of technological expertise as the engineers, scientists and technical experts in the oil and gas industry.