

Cuming Corporation News

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FLOTATION AND INSULATION ORDERS SURGE



As U.S. coastal population increases, deaths from storms decline, thanks to improved forecasting. (source: AccuWeather.com Hurricane Center)

Soaring oil and gas prices, spurred by damage from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, have accelerated the already high level of activity in the offshore industry, resulting in unprecedented demand for Cuming Corporation's flotation and insulation product lines. Orders for C-FLOAT and

C-THERM products for new applications as well as repair and replacement services have our factories working round the clock.

Ray Wong, product manager for flotation products, reports that there are currently 15 new orders in house from drilling contractors for riser buoyancy modules. Most of these orders, Wong says, are the result of exploration activities driven by increasing worldwide energy demand and resulting higher energy prices.

Elmer Hershey, product manager for insulation products, says that recent insulation orders include vertical risers for loading production facilities and jumpers for development fields round the world. He believes that current insulation orders are chiefly the result of expanded development and production activities as major energy companies push to develop their proven reserves and prepare for future demand.

LOUISIANA PLANT REBOUNDS QUICKLY

Cuming Corporation's factory in New Iberia is on the Gulf Coast, west of New Orleans but east of where Hurricane Rita made landfall on the morning of September 24. That location made the facility vulnerable to the tidal surge from the storm.

Plant Manager Steve Sinitiere and Engineering Project Manager Randy Porter, who stayed in New Iberia to ride out the hurricane, report that the plant experienced significant flooding. Despite thorough preparations, four feet of water in the building damaged some raw materials and equipment. Fortunately, there was no structural damage to the building and no negative environmental impact.

Overall, Rita had minimal effect on work supported by the facility. Except for electrical components that were submerged in saltwater, cleanup and refurbishment were virtually complete a week following the storm. Some motor repairs took longer, but by the week of October 10, the plant was supporting field operations, and it was completely back in production during the week of October 17, filling urgent pipeline contracts. Such a rapid return to action is testimony to the outstanding abilities



New Iberia, La. – Unprecedented demand for Cuming flotation and insulation products, stemming from a booming offshore industry and hurricane-recovery efforts, is evidenced by this front-loader stacking insulated pipes for shipment to customers.

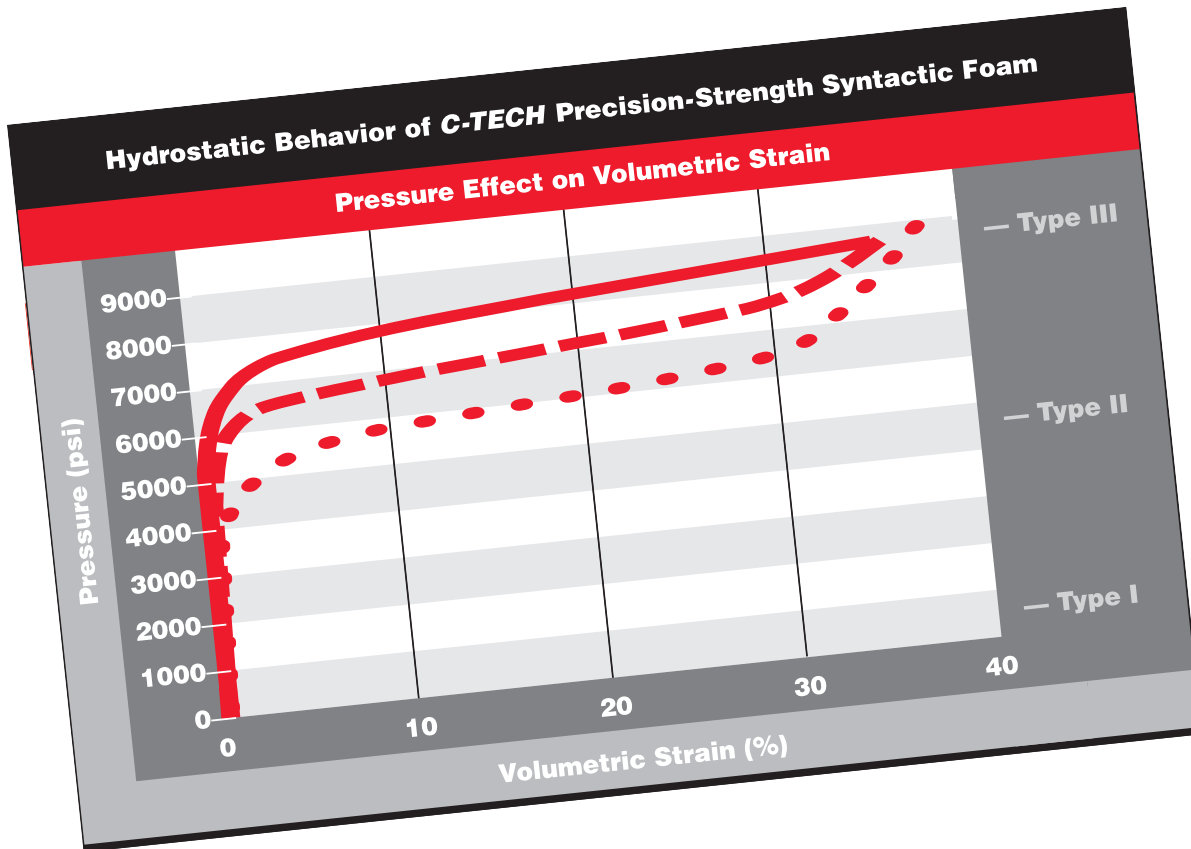
and dedication of Cuming Corporation's Louisiana personnel.

RESEARCHERS DEVELOP TEST PROTOCOL FOR SYNTACTIC FOAM PERFORMANCE

In papers recently delivered at a major technical conference, Vincent Wang and Majdi Haddad of the Cuming Corporation R&D Department presented results of a testing program to demonstrate the usefulness of new syntactic foam products in long-term service in uncommon environments. Reprints of the technical papers are available.

Combining Cuming Corporation's established expertise in materials science with their firsthand knowledge of offshore operations, the researchers have developed protocols for

qualifying new materials for extended service. Using industry-leading laboratory and test facilities, the Cuming Corporation methodology has proved successful in qualifying candidate materials for first-time service in unusual environments. Projects that will benefit from this research are those dealing with higher pressures over a wide range of temperatures.



SALES, MANAGEMENT STAFF EXPANDS

Cuming Corporation is pleased to announce the following additions to its Insulation Products staff:

Soren Kjaer, the new manager of European sales, is a graduate of Aarhus Teknikum and has filled engineering and sales positions with other major offshore suppliers. Kjaer will serve the European interests of all three partners of Bayou Flow Technologies LLC (BFT) – The Bayou Companies, Perma-Pipe Inc. and Cuming Corporation.

Jim Haslam, staff engineer for BFT, holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Louisiana (Lafayette). He formerly served as a project engineer with

the Shaw Group. Haslam is a Houston resident and will provide technical support for insulation projects.

Kevin Vamvakias has signed on as a project coordinator for the New Iberia factory. He is a graduate of the University of Houston with a B.S. in industrial distribution and has served as a contract analyst for Hewlett-Packard in Houston. Vamvakias recently relocated from Houston to Lafayette, and currently is working on several major offshore projects.

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