

# Cuming Corporation News

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## ▶ CELEBRATING OVER 50 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Noted materials scientist Dr. William R. Cuming was recently honored for his more than 50 years of technical innovation and creative leadership by employees of two companies he founded. A graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, Harvard, and MIT, Dr. Cuming served with distinction in the United States Navy in the Pacific during World War II. He co-founded Emerson & Cuming in 1948, rapidly building a product line of engineered materials for the electronics, aerospace, and marine/offshore markets. After he sold Emerson & Cuming to W. R. Grace & Co. in the late 1970s, Dr. Cuming started Cuming Corporation in 1980, for further innovation of high-technology materials. Dr. Cuming built on his legacy in the offshore oil and gas industry, having led the engineering team that developed the first deepwater syntactic foam riser buoyancy modules for 800-foot water depths, back in 1968. At Cuming Corporation, he pioneered ultralight and ultradeep materials that are today establishing records approaching 10,000-foot depths. This tradition of constantly pushing the boundaries of technology is part of our heritage at Cuming Corporation. It is why our *C-FLOAT* flotation products and *C-THERM* insulation products are the first choice for both exploration and production of offshore oil and gas under the most demanding conditions. ◀



Dr. William R. Cuming, co-founder of Emerson & Cuming (1948) and founder of Cuming Corporation (1980).

## ▶ RIG OPERATORS CHOOSE *C-FLOAT* BUOYANCY

For drilling rig operators contemplating exploration in ever-greater water depths, *C-FLOAT* is the preferred option for its quality, durability and low weight. Ray Wong, manager of flotation products said, "Operators are increasingly turning to Cuming for extensions even when a rig's original modules are from another supplier. With the conditions these rig operators encounter in today's deepwater projects, they want to be assured of high quality buoyancy materials." What's more, our new ultralight buoyancy materials are giving drilling companies extra performance as they push the depth limits of their operations even further. Global Marine's drillship *CR Luigs*, the first to use our ultralight riser modules, recently hit oil in 6,675 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico. The ship's buoyancy system gives it the capability of drilling to 10,000 feet. R&B Falcon has also selected ultra-



Cuming Corporation has provided recent module strings or extensions for R&B Falcon's *Deepwater Millennium* (shown above), *Deepwater Discovery* and *Deepwater Horizon*.

light for use on two rigs – the new *Deepwater Horizon* and for partial use on the *Deepwater Millennium's* third extension. The *Deepwater Horizon's* 952 modules will provide service to a water depth of 8,000 feet. The *Deepwater Millennium's* 1,500-foot extension will give it the capability of drilling to 8,500 feet.

A full string of 1,008 modules was recently delivered to the new drill ship R&B Falcon *Deepwater Discovery*, giving it a drilling reach of 8,500 feet. Plus, by the end of the year, we'll complete a 440-module extension for Smedvig's *W. Navion I* rig that will extend its drilling capacity to 7,000 feet. ◀



As part of our commitment to providing a full range of quality, cost-effective services to customers, we now offer repair for modules from all manufacturers, convenient to the Gulf of Mexico from our plant at Louisiana's Port of Iberia. We recently completed two major repair jobs there for Diamond Offshore Drilling.

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Nov. 7-9

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## FIRST OIL FOR SHELL KING'S C-THERM INSULATION



Insulated pipe quad-joints destined for the Shell King project.

Shell's *King* project, with its six miles of *C-THERM* insulated flowline, began producing oil this spring. *C-THERM* protects against pipeline-plugging paraffins or hydrates that form as hot oil or gas come into contact with cold water. It offers the advantages of higher thermal efficiency and better resistance to hydrostatic pressure than conventional insulation technologies, at a lower cost.

The Shell *King* project flowline is the first major *C-THERM* syntactic foam application. It has been tested and certified by Heriot-Watt University for 20 years' service at a depth of 3,300 feet and a temperature of 170° F. *C-THERM* may be used to insulate other subsea equipment as well, with the capability of forming a complete deep water thermal barrier. For the *King* project, we also insulated the PLEM sleds that terminate each length of flowline. Pipe insulation

casting was performed in our New Iberia, Louisiana, factory at the Port of Iberia. Nearby Bayou Pipe Coating provided epoxy pipe coating and welding services. ◀

## ADVANCED TEST EQUIPMENT RAISES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

New laboratory equipment acquisitions are taking our ability to manufacture and test high performance syntactic foam materials to the next level. We recently added an Instron Universal Materials Testing System and a Ross Computerized Vacuum Mixer to our headquarters lab. The Instron equipment allows measuring mechanical properties of foams in different thermal environments, at temperatures ranging from 4° F to 250° F. According to R&D Director Len Rantz, "This high end equipment enables us to characterize our materials more fully and predict their performance in subsea environments with greater certainty." With the new mixer,

R&D will produce larger test castings of special void-free syntactic foam than had been possible before. This specialized material is used in high performance ultra-deepwater equipment. ◀

The Instron Universal Tensile Tester allows us to optimize the performance of syntactic foam formulations for the harshest subsea environments.



**C-THERM INSULATION RECEIVES PATENT**  
Cuming Corporation has been granted a patent for its *C-THERM* syntactic foam insulation cast-on-pipe technology from the United States Patent Office. *C-THERM* makes long flowlines in deep water both technically and economically feasible.



We have just published a new brochure showcasing our capabilities for the offshore oil and gas industry. To obtain your copy, please contact one of our representatives below.

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