

# Cuming Corporation News

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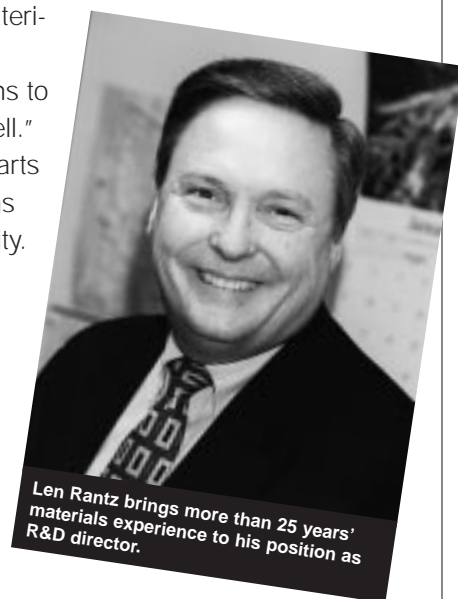
## R&D: IT ALL BEGINS WITH THE CUSTOMER

With the offshore industry going deeper, the industry's needs for materials are ever changing, sometimes requiring entirely new syntactic foam formulations. Cuming Corporation knows how important it is to be familiar with customers' plans – particularly depth and water conditions they anticipate for future exploration and production. As a result, our R&D staff is actively polling customers on upcoming projects, and how that will translate to their needs for equipment insulation and flotation. These customer priorities help guide our R&D program.

Headed by director Len Rantz, our R&D team has the engineering and technical background needed to create the syntactic foam materials required by customers. "Given the extreme conditions in which companies are now working, we are expanding the repertoire of materials available for our customers' use," Len explained. "Our in-house development program has recently added over 100 new formulations to our material database and is exploring new basic chemistries as well."

For new pipeline insulation products, the development process starts with computer modeling techniques to screen combinations of resins and fillers for thermal conductivity, temperature capability and density. We make prepared sample formulations and subject them to water absorption and longevity tests in our hydrostatic pressure vessels. An independent testing organization evaluates samples for mechanical properties such as tensile and compressive strength. Finally, for formulations that make the cut, we produce prototypes for fit-for-service testing at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In the next year, Cuming R&D looks forward to the opening of its brand-new lab facility, complete with state-of-the-art test equipment. The lab will aid in streamlining our development process, expanding the number and types of chemistries and technologies we will consider. But as our research operation grows, customer input continues to be the driving force. If you would like to discuss your upcoming performance requirements for syntactic foam, please call Len at our Avon headquarters. ◀



Len Rantz brings more than 25 years' materials experience to his position as R&D director.

Visit us at OTC 2000

May 1-4

Booth 3049



## GULF SERVICE TEAM HITS THE ROAD

The Cuming Service team is now tackling projects at customer sites throughout the Gulf area. From our home base in New Iberia, Louisiana, we've been handling installation, maintenance and repair of insulation and flotation materials on several deep-water projects.

Our service team works closely with customers, fast tracking projects to meet their deadlines and scheduling around other on-site work groups. According to team leader Steve Sinitiere, "We pride ourselves on being able to provide quality workmanship in an expedited fashion, working around the myriad other jobs going on at a typical deepwater installation site."

Over the last few months we have completed several insulation installations of deepwater equipment. For the Shell *King* project, we insulated pipeline end manifolds. Flowline and ▶ **CONTINUED ON BACK**



The Cuming Corporation Service Team, from left, Steve Sinitiere, Clay Waguespack, Sergio Acosta and Cory Joseph.

sled jumpers have been another focus for us, with projects completed for British Borneo *Allegheny* and PennzEnergy *Garden Banks 161*. Our insulation comes in many forms – pack in place, flat and curved panels, collars and tapes – adapting readily to all surfaces and shapes. These can be used to insulate the entire sub-sea system – risers, connecting lines, trees and pipeline weld joints.

Our team is experienced with both syntactic foam materials and the offshore oil industry. And, it is backed by a resourceful R&D effort ready to supply material solutions for your job. To find out more, please call Steve at (337) 367-8383. ◀

## CUMING CORPORATION SUPPORTS DRILLING RECORD

Noble Drilling set a drilling record of 9,000 feet in late 1999. The record was set by the *Paul Wolff*, outfitted with Cuming Corporation's *C-FLOAT* syntactic foam modules. *C-FLOAT*, a strong, lightweight composite material, provides excellent flotation properties for deepwater module floats and buoys.

As the offshore industry continues to drill in deeper water, the need for high performance flotation devices to withstand the demanding marine environment becomes even greater. "We are proud that our *C-FLOAT* syntactic foam demonstrated its quality and reliability in this record. We congratulate Noble on its deepwater drilling record and look forward to supporting their continuing success," said Ray Wong, manager of flotation products. ◀

Cuming Corporation employs the best hydrostatic pressure test capability in the industry. Our test vessels handle full riser modules or insulated pipe joints as large as 21 feet and 60 inches in diameter. Deepwater equipment is tested for service at ocean depths of 10,000 feet and beyond for 30 years and more. Several smaller tanks support testing for R&D purposes. Our testing capacity enables us to manufacture quality products with quick, even record-setting, turnarounds.



Shell King flowlines were run in late 1999, with production beginning in March. Cuming Corporation supplied six miles of *C-THERM* pipeline insulation for this project, rated for 20 years' service at a depth of 3,300 feet. J. Ray McDermott's *Derrick Barge 50* performed the installation.



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