

Mott MacDonald's innovative corrosion treatment process wins top award

Mott MacDonald's innovative corrosion treatment system LATreat™ – developed and patented by the consultancy and BAC Corrosion Control – has won the Research, Studies and Consulting Award at the Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE)¹ Engineering Excellence Awards. The awards took place on 25 May at the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, London.

Mott MacDonald's Group chairman Keith Howells and LATreat™ project director Neil Henderson were present to receive the award.

Neil Henderson said, "We're thrilled to have won this award, which recognises over a decade of research and development. The involvement of UK ports to undertake full-scale site trials has been a major step in demonstrating the effectiveness of the process under real conditions. We're now looking forward to using LATreat™ as a commercial product. As ALWC has been identified at over 90% of UK ports and throughout Europe, the USA, Canada, the Caribbean and Japan, the potential benefits of LATreat™ to the global ports sector are huge."

LATreat™ is a highly innovative, environmentally friendly treatment that uses only the components of seawater to sterilise and then deposit a protective coating on to marine steel structures affected by accelerated low water corrosion (ALWC). ALWC can cause premature perforation of unprotected steel which can lead to failure of a structure.

The LATreat™ process involves passing a phased electrical current through seawater. It takes about five days and does not require port closure. It requires no materials, creates no waste, and needs no costly ongoing maintenance. All equipment used is removed on completion of treatment with no requirement for permanent installation of expensive control equipment or long-term monitoring. LATreat™ is also significantly cheaper than cathodic protection systems, particularly when lifecycle costs are taken into account. Overall cost savings can be in the order of 50%.

In 2006 the Technology Strategy Board², the UK government's national innovation agency, offered to co-fund the full development of LATreat™ as a commercial product. Mott MacDonald put together a consortium comprising of BAC Corrosion Control, Aberdeen Harbour Board, Port of London Authority and Shoreham Port Authority to develop and test the effectiveness of LATreat™ under real conditions. Manchester University joined the team as its academic partner and carried out research to fully optimise the process. BAC Corrosion Control also developed and manufactured enhanced electrical current apparatus used during the process.

Full scale site trials have been carried out at UK ports over several years. These have demonstrated the effectiveness of LATreat™ in dealing with ALWC in operating port facilities and producing a sustainable, durable and cost-effective treatment.

Ends

Image (left - right): Mary Nightingale - ITN newsreader and awards host, Keith Howells - Mott MacDonald Group chairman, Neil Henderson - LATreat™ project director, Paul Norris - Mott MacDonald's manager of special services and Geoff French, URS Scott Wilson Chairman, vice president of the Institution of Civil Engineers and award presenter

Notes to Editors

1) ACE represents the interests of the UK consultancy and engineering industry and is the leading business association in this sector, with around 650 members. Their Engineering Excellence Awards showcase the finest achievements of consultancy and engineering firms and the innovation that makes the industry crucial to local, national and global economies.

2) The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led government body which works to create economic growth by ensuring that the UK is a global leader in innovation. Sponsored by the

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org

About Mott MacDonald

Mott MacDonald is a global management, engineering and development consultancy with more than 14,000 staff, £1 billion revenue and work in 140 countries for the public and private sectors. The employee-owned company is ranked 13th in the 2011 Sunday Times 25 Best Big Companies to Work For survey and was awarded Engineering Consultant of the Year at the 2011 Building Awards. Mott MacDonald's core business sectors cover buildings, transport, energy, water, environment, health, education, industry, oil and gas, communications and international development.

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