

- News release -

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Metacor expands reach to key markets with new offices in the Middle East and Americas

GLOBAL external corrosion management specialist Metacor is expanding its international operations with new offices in Trinidad and Qatar, as it responds to growing demand from the oil and gas industry.

The firm, headquartered in Aberdeen, Scotland, is servicing a growing client list in the world's major energy provinces and recent surges in activity in the Middle East and southern Americas have prompted the move.

Metacor already counts five of the major oil and gas exploration and production operators - BP, Shell, Talisman, Hess and Nexen – among its clients and is a leading player in offshore maintenance monitoring.

The industry continues to respond to the need to monitor the condition of assets from offshore oil rigs - including vital components such as walkways and other vital safety critical components - to land-based infrastructure.

Managing director Stuart Mortimer said: "Operators in every global oil and gas producing region are taking external corrosion management and planning very seriously and the level of demand we are experiencing continues to grow.

"Our move to provide bases for a rapidly expanding list of clients in Doha and Port of Spain ensures that our personnel, who are capable of assessing and advising on external corrosion in any environment, can respond quickly and in-person."

It has Europe's largest complement of NACE-accredited coating inspectors and resources around the globe, with highly experienced inspection manager Dereck Smith heading up the Qatar operation as regional manager for the Middle East in Doha.

Dereck Smith has already spent 18 years in corrosion management and inspection in the Middle East, one of the oil and gas industry's biggest production regions, and is one of Metacor's team of 19 NACE-certified inspectors.

"The industry has changed a lot in the last decade. Companies now realise that treating the symptoms of the planned treatment of external corrosion is an absolute necessity rather than something that can get done when they get around to it," he says.

"External corrosion management is now a significant growing market in the Middle East and we are ideally placed to respond to the needs of major operators and oil and gas service companies, with our global knowledge."

In addition to his detailed work in inspection management, Mr Smith has also devised and conducted inspection training courses for the industry.

Frank Walsh, an ICorr-accredited coatings inspector with more than 30 years experience in the oil and gas, industrial and marine sectors will lead Metacor's work as country manager in Trinidad and Tobago on an initial pilot project.

“Establishing a base in Trinidad will allow us to further expand our work with the local market and that in turn will increase new job and training opportunities for the local workforce as we respond to a growing client list in the region,” said Mr Walsh.

Metacor is the industry-leading system which predicts the risk of corrosion-related failure of assets, their lifespan and future maintenance requirements through detailed inspection and logging.

Based around a simple, fully-auditable computer software system, Metacor can be used in any environment in any global location. The system was developed to give asset managers the tools to keep corrosion under control.

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Issued on behalf of Metacor by The BIG Partnership. For further information contact Kathryn McKee on 01224 578171 / 07968 079022 or Alan Gorham on 01224 578170 / 07834 157667

NOTES TO EDITORS:-

Metacor operates around a central database which logs the location and condition of every element (or group of elements) of an asset, with on-site inspections providing details of the level of corrosion present, including metal loss

The system can be as detailed or generic as required, and calculates the point at which the item's integrity will be compromised. The system predicts maintenance schedules by assessing the risks caused by corrosion, including the consequences of the asset failing, giving greater control over the future of the asset.

Based on the condition of the asset, environmental variables and operational requirements, Metacor will recommend the most suitable coating for the job. It also estimates cost, time and resource requirements for the work, taking into account the area to be treated, coating being used and access at the worksite.

Full online support is available through MetacorWeb – the system can be employed anywhere in the world with secure access to all data, logs and reports from remote locations.