

remas

linking environmental
management and
performance

Issue 10 • 2005



In this issue:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Quality assurance of data | 3 |
| Featuring chemical &
pharmaceutical group, Solvay | 4 |
| Adding value to environmental
management | 7 |



with help and support
of the LIFE programme

What is remas?

Remas is an ambitious and far-reaching three-year European study into the benefits of environmental management systems (EMS) in the context of regulation. The €2million project is co-financed by the LIFE Environment Fund, the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment and the Environmental Protection Agency (in Ireland).

By studying the performance of industrial sites and comparing those sites that have robust EMS, with those that have not, we will identify which factors are most valuable for the regulator. After all the data has been collated, measured and analysed, we will cascade our findings to key EU stakeholders. remas is committed to promoting the highest standards of environmental management practice and effective regulatory policy throughout Europe ... and, potentially, the world.



with help and support of the LIFE programme



Hello and welcome once again from the remas team. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the many hundreds of individuals and organisations who have joined with us and contributed to this challenging and exciting project. We have received a lot of data, which is helping us develop firm and conclusive findings. None of this would have been possible without your help. But, we still need your assistance.

We are developing a compliance checklist to allow sites to check performance against their site permit and key environmental legislation. We are also progressing our top three proposed incentives to encourage companies to take up EMS. Trials for both are being set up and we are looking for companies in the UK and mainland Europe to take part. Read more about this work on pages 4 and 5.

Members of the remas team have been busy visiting sites to quality assure the data we have received. We are very pleased that the visits are proving so successful both in terms of the support from host sites and the fact that we can now have confidence in the data. Read about our quality assurance visit to Solvay's site in Barcelona on page 3.

Later this year, we will be combining an event to mark the end of the project with this year's United Kingdom EMS National Forum, sharing with you the findings of three year's work. We hope as many of you as possible will take the chance to come along. We will let you have more information in the next issue of the newsletter.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martyn Cheesbrough".

Martyn Cheesbrough
remas Project Manager



Meet the team

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Quality assuring data in Europe

The remas project has received a very encouraging response. Completed questionnaires have meant a lot of data to work with. But can we believe the figures? Do they provide a true picture of environmental performance across Europe? We spoke to Becky Favager, one of the team's technical advisors, who has been quality assuring the data.

The remas team has been visiting a number of sites in Spain to verify the data that companies have submitted. Whilst quality assurance has been carried out in the UK before, this is the first site for mainland Europe. Becky explained that her first priority was to check the environmental procedures in place across the sites. "We aim to complete in depth site quality assurance at about 10% of participating sites. We have been checking whether the options selected in the questionnaire represent what is happening in practice and asking the sites visited to produce evidence. For example, does the site have a policy statement? Where is it displayed? How is it communicated?"

Carrying out quality assurance on the data means that the team can check for any inconsistencies in the scores. "We need to have confidence in the data we have been gathering and avoid any confusion caused by language differences. We hope that in depth site visits such as these will give credibility and endorsement to our findings," said Becky.

The results to date have been very encouraging. The general pattern is that there is less than 5% change in scores as a result of the quality assurance process.

Looking at the environmental performance data supplied, the team has been comparing sites with the European industry benchmarks and enlisting the support of regulators, checking if the information regulators hold matches the data the site is supplying.

Everyone involved in the quality assurance process has seen this as a very positive experience. Becky would like to thank the sites for the co-operation she has received during her visits. "The host sites and regulators in Spain have been extremely helpful and I am indebted to them for the level of support they have given."

International chemical and pharmaceutical group Solvay, who have two sites taking part in the remas project, has particularly valued being part of the European wide study. Antonio Malet is Environment Manager at Solvay's Martorell site. "The process has been very interesting for us. It gave us the opportunity to confirm the consistency of our EMS. Receiving an external point of view also helps us to make improvements."

Overall the site visits have been very successful, as Becky concludes:

“ We can now have confidence that the information we are receiving is robust and we can rely on it to support the overall aims of the remas project. ”

Read our company profile on participating site, Solvay on pages 4&5.

Solvay colabora en el proyecto remas

Muchas compañías españolas han participado en el proyecto remas. El Grupo químico y farmacéutico SOLVAY ha inscrito su planta de Martorell cerca de Barcelona para participar en el estudio.

Solvay es un grupo internacional con más de 30000 empleados, está presente en 50 países, Solvay cree firmemente en los principios del desarrollo sostenible por ello en sus plantas la seguridad y la salud de sus empleados y el respeto por el medioambiente son una prioridad. En el ámbito del medioambiente, Solvay impulsa la certificación ISO 14001 de sus plantas. 6 de ellas ya están certificadas y otras 30 lo estarán antes de finalizar el año 2005. La planta de Martorell posee también en registro EMAS.

El coordinador medioambiental de la planta de Martorell es Antonio Malet. Él explica que dan un total soporte al proyecto en especial en el objetivo dar valor a los sistemas de gestión medioambiental. "Es muy importante que si tenemos implantado un SGM consistente y eficaz, la administración confíe en él"

Con la participación en el proyecto se obtienen además otros beneficios como el Sr. Malet explica "El proyecto nos permite compararnos con las mejores plantas de Europa y con ello la posibilidad de mejorar. Remas nos ha permitido mejorar nuestro SGM y nuestros resultados medioambientales. Esto es particularmente importante como planta que pertenece a un Grupo comprometido con el desarrollo sostenible.

Solvay Ma ha tenido la oportunidad de revisar la puntuación recibida y ha estado muy satisfecha con los resultados obtenidos. "Estamos muy contentos con la alta puntuación recibida por parte de Remas. Ello representa una confirmación externa e independiente que nuestro SGM es consistente y eficiente"



Rafael Truan (Director), Mar Vila (Environmental Department) and Antonia Mallet with area picture of Solvay's Barcelona site

“ Remas nos ha dado la oportunidad de comparar nuestros resultados con los de las mejores plantas de Europa, lo cual siempre ofrece posibilidades de mejora. ”

Solvay supports Remas

Companies throughout Spain have been very supportive of the remas project. International chemical and pharmaceutical group, Solvay registered their Martorell site, near Barcelona to take part in the study.



A global company that employs more than 30,000 people in 50 countries, Solvay believes strongly in acting locally towards sustainable development and caring for the health, safety and environment of its employees and the community at large. For environmental matters, Solvay is continuing to establish the international standard ISO14001 throughout its sites. 36 sites have currently obtained external certification for their environmental management systems and another 30 should receive certification by the end of 2005. Solvay's Martorell site is also registered to the EMAS standard.

Environmental manager at Solvay's Barcelona site is Antonio Malet. He explains that his site fully supports remas' objective to prove the value of environmental management systems. "It is very important that we implement EMS that are meaningful and robust and that the regulator can have confidence in."

Participating in the remas study brings other benefits too, as Sênor Malet explains. "We have the chance to compare our performance with the best plants in Europe and use this as a benchmark for improvement." Remas has allowed our plant at the Martorell site to improve our EMS and our environmental performance. This is particularly important as part of the Group's commitment to sustainable development."

Solvay's Martorell site has had the opportunity to review the scores they received and have been very pleased with the results. "We are very happy with the high score we received from remas. This is an external confirmation that our EMS is strong and efficient."

“ Remas has given us the chance to compare our performance with the best plants in Europe and use this as a benchmark for improvement. ”

Progress update

Innovative work in understanding the make up of EMS and encouraging companies to see their value is continuing. Here, we take a look at the progress being made.

Adding value to environmental management

Over the past couple of months consultants and the remas team have been developing a compliance checklist. This will allow sites to check compliance with their site permit and key environmental legislation. Several sites have already volunteered to take part in a pilot using the checklist and have expressed enthusiasm for the benefits that could come from enhancing their approach to legal compliance.

However, as practical aspects differ between sites and industrial sectors, the remas team need to gain a wider perspective and seek the views of a larger audience. Policy advisor Jeremy Stephens is leading the development of the compliance checklist. "We are setting up a user acceptance group. This will involve gathering opinions from regulators and certifiers as to the approach being taken and the questions being asked in the checklist. Once the process has been developed we will be trialing this at industrial sites from July this year."

Encouraging uptake of EMS

Many countries in Europe offer incentives to industry to take up EMS. But which are the most effective? Remas' top 3 proposed incentives are now being developed, with time plans and technical briefs agreed for all three.

Still time to take part in Remas incentive trial

A number of companies have expressed an interest in taking part in the incentives trial, but the remas team would like more sites in mainland Europe to join in. Initial involvement includes completion of a questionnaire, which will be analysed by the remas team to develop proposals for the main trial. Contact Jeremy Stephens +44 (0)117 915 6233 for more information.

We plan to carry out the main trial in the late summer/early autumn.

Out and about with remas – dates for your diary

The remas calendar is looking pretty busy over the next few months. Here are some of the key events we will be attending. Please take the time to come along, meet the team and find out more on how the project is progressing.



ET Conference 2004

New look to remas website - coming soon...

ET 2005

24-26 May, Birmingham NEC

et2005

ET2005 is the largest environmental technology and management services exhibition in the UK. This year the exhibition will be at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham from 24-26 May. Over 4,500 industry professionals will have the chance to catch up on the latest legislation, best practice and hottest issues in environmental technology.

Remas will be exhibiting on the Environment Agency stand (D10) in the Environment Technology Hall. Visitors can find out the latest information on the remas project through an interactive presentation on the stand. Project manager, Martyn Cheesbrough will also be giving briefing sessions over the three days.

The focus this year for remas will be to give audiences more information on the progress of the project and to introduce the findings.

More information can be found at **www.et-expo.co.uk**

IEMA annual conference

7/8 June, Droitwich Spa

iema
Institute of Environmental
Management & Assessment

The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) aims to promote best practice standards in environmental management, auditing and assessment.

This year's IEMA Conference and Exhibition will take place on 7 and 8 June at the Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire. It will bring together 300 practitioners from business, industry and the public sector.

This is a key environmental event for practitioners who want to develop their skills and knowledge and network with others. Experts from across the sector will be speaking and Jonathon Porritt of Forum for the Future will open the conference.

Remas will have a stand at the event where delegates can find out more about the project's latest findings. Martyn Cheesbrough and other project experts will be on hand to answer questions. remas will also be hosting a workshop. For more details, please visit the IEMA website at **www.iema.net**

EMS National forum

1 December, Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, London

iema
Institute of Environmental
Management & Assessment

Later this year, remas, will be combining an event to mark the end of the project with the EMS National Forum.

Delegates will be able to review the project's findings through presentations and workshops and discover whether an EMS really does lead to improved environmental performance.

Contact IEMA for more details **www.iema.net**

Last year at the EMS National Forum

Remas received a great deal of interest throughout the day, which was attended by over 230 environmental management professionals, including Government departments, industry, certifiers and academics. Although not presenting at this Forum, four of the speakers specifically referred to the work remas

“Sustainable development: Enjoying the Earth’s resources without jeopardising the welfare of future generations.”

James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool (2003)

“My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there.”

Charles F. Kettering, American inventor (1876 –1958)

“Instead of controlling the environment for the benefit of the population, perhaps we should control the population to ensure the survival of our environment.”

Sir David Attenborough

