



## *News Release*

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### **Human Factors Takes Center Stage at ASM® Consortium Meeting**

PHOENIX, **March 15, 2012** – Members of the Abnormal Situation Management (ASM®) Consortium ([www.asmconsortium.org](http://www.asmconsortium.org)) gathered for a week-long event at Honeywell in Phoenix, AZ. This week-long Quarterly Review Meeting (QRM) is a platform for the members to share the benefits gained from the ASM practices and products, and to discuss new challenges faced in plant operations. Members of the Consortium include a wide range of industrial manufacturers, vendors, and universities that collaborate to research best practices for managing abnormal situations in industrial facilities

During the Phoenix QRM, members and guest speakers discussed how human factors relates to abnormal situation management. Automation solution design should consider the complex human-system interaction and the factors that allow people to recognize, better prevent and respond to abnormal situations to ensure process safety. Members gained insights from Jeremy Codd, Arch Insurance, who shared his perspective on how the insurance industry evaluates safety and human factors in the oil and gas industry. Additional presentations focused on human factors, including Reducing Abnormal Situation in Ethylene Plant Start Up and Use of Dynamic Simulation to Improve Project Operability.

Members recommended Human Factors Awareness Training (web-based) available from the [Energy Institute](http://www.energyinstitute.com) (EI), the professional body for the energy industry delivering good practice and professionalism across the depth and breadth of the sector.

User Members form an important part of the ASM Consortium; according to Peggy Hewitt, Director, ASM Consortium, “Our members are our core strength and have been vital in defining the ASM Consortium research roadmap. I am proud of our progress to align our research with the most significant problems of our member companies.”

## Background on the ASM Consortium

The Honeywell-led ASM Consortium started in 1994 to address customer concerns about the high cost of incidents at their plants such as unplanned shutdowns, fires, explosions, emissions, etc, and this was termed Abnormal Situation Management®. An injection of funding from NIST enabled the consortium to spend several years researching and developing highly-advanced concepts to address the problem of abnormal situations. Since then, research has continued and increasing effort has been put into development and deployment of ASM solutions that incorporate ASM knowledge.



The basis of the ASM Consortium is collaboration and information-sharing. By working together, members achieve far more than they could working alone. Research results are published for members, and often further shared by means of webinars, seminars and workshops. User members also guide Honeywell in selection and development of product solutions that incorporate ASM knowledge. Non-members can benefit from ASM Research as [ASM Effective Practices Guidelines](#) for Alarm Management, Display Design and Procedural Practices are available for purchase on Amazon.com.

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