



## News Release

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### **The ASM<sup>®</sup> Consortium Keeps Its Commitment to Process Safety and Aligns the Quarterly Meeting with the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center Symposium.**

**Richmond, Nov 15, 2013** – Members of the Abnormal Situation Management (ASM<sup>®</sup>) Consortium ([www.asmconsortium.org](http://www.asmconsortium.org)) met for a week-long Quarterly Review Meeting (QRM) at College Station, Texas in October. This QRM was unique as it was hosted by the Mary Kay O'Connor (MKO) Process Safety Centre in parallel with their annual 2013 International Symposium, *Beyond Regulatory Compliance, Making Safety Second Nature*. This gave the ASM Consortium members an opportunity to interact and listen to the global process safety experts, when not in the QRM sessions. The QRM is a platform for the ASM Consortium 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 QRM, each member received copies of the latest edition of the newly published display design guidelines, *Effective Console Operator HMI Design*. Members gained insight from the guest speaker, Dr. Hans Pasman, on new possible solutions for managing abnormal situations. The additional process safety topics at the meeting included work on safety climate, HMI technologies and Operator training.

Tom Williams, who is newly appointed to be the new Director of the Consortium, discussed the direction of the ASM Consortium's research in the area of process safety and human factors for the next three years through 2016. Tom is a chemical engineer and has 35 years of experience in R&D, product development, process design & automation, operations, and operator effectiveness.

According to Tom Williams, *"The ASM Consortium is an acknowledged thought-leader in our industry. It uses rigorous scientific methods to evaluate new concepts and test potential solutions in Members' operations. The potential to reduce incidents and improve operations is enormous. I look forward to working with our Members to continue the good work that has been*

*done in Operator Effectiveness and accelerate the impact of our findings throughout our industry. Our Members are industry leaders who are committed to process safety and are also early adopters of new technology.”*

## **Background on the ASM Consortium**

The ASM Consortium was begun 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 the US 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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