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Circular Letter No.4714
21 April 2023

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
United Nations and specialized agencies
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **FSO SAFER – UN call for contributions towards oil spill response equipment**

1 Since 2019, IMO has been part of the UN-wide efforts to prevent a spill from FSO SAFER, an aging floating storage offshore (FSO) unit containing an estimated 150,000 metric tonnes of oil cargo. It is currently moored off the coast of Yemen near, in the Gulf of Aden. IMO has particularly focussed on contingency planning efforts in the event of a spill from FSO SAFER.

2 On 9 March, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement to purchase the VLCC that will take on the oil, marking a major step toward starting the planned ship-to-ship transfer operation, making tangible progress towards eliminating the threat of a catastrophic oil spill from FSO SAFER.

3 In line with this significant step forward, contingency planning efforts are intensifying in preparation for the upcoming transfer operation.

4 One of the critical oil spill preparedness gaps identified in Yemen refers to the lack of specialized oil spill response equipment within the country. Consequently, it is considered of great importance to address the necessary measures for any required immediate response in the event of an oil spill from FSO SAFER.

5 Taking into account the significant manufacturing lead times for the acquisition of oil spill response equipment, the UN would welcome in-kind contributions of spill response equipment, including used equipment, to support preparedness efforts, in the event of a spill from FSO SAFER.

6 To assist the process, an indicative list of the required oil spill response equipment is set out at annex. Taking into account that operations are provisionally scheduled to initiate in early May 2023, it would be necessary for the required equipment to be in region as soon as practicably possible.

7 It would be appreciated if any expressions of interest, or any additional information, could be kindly directed to:

Mr. Will Griffiths
Technical Officer (OPRC/HNS)
Marine Environment Division
WGriffit@imo.org

8 All offers will be duly appreciated, acknowledged and followed up.

ANNEX

FSO SAFER oil spill response equipment requirements

Item	Description
Containment & Recovery	
1	Storage Tanks Rapid Erection, Self-standing, Storage Tank. Minimum 10m ³ capacity.
Containment & Recovery	
2	"High Speed" Offshore Containment system eg. CurrentBusters on hydraulic reel. Oil containment system with 70m Tow Lines, Air Blowers, Powerpack for reel operation. Full Accessory Kits, 1 year Spares Kit.
3	Boom/Vane 1m Boom Vane Version 1m. Full Rigging kit, including Drop-Back deployment function.
4	Weir Skimmer Self-adjusting Weir Skimmer, Pump Version, 30m ³ /hr, DOP-160 (heavy-duty) Vertical Screw Pump, with cutting knife for trash, with Portable Hydraulic Power , Hydraulic Hoses, 30mtr Discharge Hose, 1 Year Spares Kit.
5	Sheltered Water Boom (Fence Boom) Solid Flotation Boom, Fence Type, 650-750mm, closed foam buoyancy, 20m section. With Carrier Sack. Spares & Repair Kit.
6	Oil Skimmer, Brush, >12m ³ /hr Floating Brush Skimmer Set. 12m ³ /hr, Brush discs. Hydraulic Power Pack, skid mounted. Discharge Pump. Hydraulic and discharge hose set, 20m. Spares Kit.
7	Oil Skimmer, Disc, >10m ³ /hr Floating Skimmer Set. 12m ³ /hr, Disk Skimmer. Hydraulic Power Pack, skid mounted. Discharge Pump. Hydraulic and discharge hose set, 20m. Spares Kit.
8	Oil Skimmer, Brush and Disc, 20m ³ /hr Floating Skimmer Set. 20m ³ /hr, With interchangeable disc and brush discs. Hydraulic Power Pack, skid mounted. Discharge Pump. Hydraulic and discharge hose set, 30m. 1 Year Spares Kit.
9	Floating Flat Skimmer Head, >12m ³ /hr Floating Flat Head. >12m ³ /hr, Disk Skimmer, complete with flotation.
10	Pump, Positive Displacement Spate Pump, PD75, 30m ³ /hr, 3" Inlet and Discharge, Diesel Powered, 2 Wheel Site Diesel Powered.
11	3" Hose Kit Reinforced PVC Hose, 3", General Purpose, Green or Black, 100m Long. Medium-Pressure Easy-Store Lay-Flat Discharge Hose, 3", EPDM Rubber with Polyester Cover. 50m Long, 10 X Steel Heavy Duty 3" Hose Clamp (for 3" Suction/Supply Hose)

Item		Description
Resource Protection		
12	Nearshore Boom	Air tube and skirt boom, 650-750mm, 20m section, ASTM connector, PU, with ASTM Z Connectors and carry bag.
13	Nearshore Boom	Air tube and skirt boom, 650-750mm, 10m section, ASTM connector, PU, with ASTM Z Connectors and carry bag.
14	Shoresealing Boom	Shoresealing boom, 550-650mm, 20m section, ASTM , 20m section, PU, with ASTM Z Connectors and carry bag.
15	Shoresealing Boom	Shoresealing boom, 550-650mm, 10m section, ASTM , 20m section, PU, with ASTM Z Connectors and carry bag.
16	Boom Towing Bridle	ASTM Z Towing Bridle with steel or websling legs, 550mm - 750mm
17	Water Pump	Water Pump, 400ltm, petrol engine driven, hand start. 20m discharge hose, 20m Suction Hose with strainer. Discharge hose connection to be compatible with Shore-sealing boom
18	Air Blower	Air Blower, Hand held, 25cc petrol engine, 75m/sec air flow, Inflation hose connection to be compatible with Nearshore and Shore-sealing boom
Dispersants application		
19	Corexit 9500, Finosol OSR52, Slickgone NS, SuperDispersant 25	Oil spill dispersant. Contained in 1m3 IBC Containers.
20	BoatSpray 100 with AFEDO Nozzles	BoatSpray 100, Diesel Engine with Recoil Start, Positive Displacement Pump with 100 LPM Output, Wheeled Chassis, AFEDO Nozzles, Hose Set, Flow Meter
Site Facilities		
21	Portable Bunds	Multi-purpose secondary containment bund system, rapid erection, 2.5m X 3m X 0.35m.