

## Fuel Measuring System Cuts Time to Minutes

By Jamie Dale and Neville Smith

TESTING for compliance with Marpol Annex VI and Sulphur Emission Control Area regulations will be reduced from days to minutes with the launch of SEA-Mate™, an onboard system for measuring a vessel's operational fuels, lubes and additives.

The elemental analyzer developed in joint venture between Maersk Fluid Technology and Innov-X Systems can provide on the spot readings of sulphur in marine fuels, perhaps taking no more than 10 minutes rather than 24-58 hours for laboratory testing. Tested on board eight AP Moller-Maersk vessels, the SEA-Mate™ provided instant sulphur content analysis in marine fuels, even while bunkering.

Maersk Fluid Technology told Lloyd's List Bunker 60, although the system was aimed initially at ship operators, it hoped to expand sales towards port state authorities wishing to improve speed and frequency of Marpol testing.

Some in the marine fuels industry estimate that compliance with the Baltic Sea Seca, which started this year, is as low as 20-30% of the vessels affected. Maersk Fluid Technology added that the joint venture partners were in talks with some Baltic port state authorities where it believed it's hand-held device would make testing easier.

Using as little as 120 mL of sample in less than two minutes, the SEA-Mate™ "assists with regulatory compliance and environmental impact", the company added. It said that, although interest from port state authorities in the North Sea, which is due to enter into force as a Seca in November next year, had not been as strong as expected, it believed that take-up would improve in the future.

SEA-Mate™ also provides predictive failure detection. Through testing for elevated levels of metals, SEA-Mate™ can also show early signs of abnormal wear and detect the levels of aluminum and silicone cat-fines down to 20 ppm combined. It also monitors onboard blending of additives and lubricants, ensuring that the desired specification of lubricants is used as well as controlling oil and additive use so as to blend precise alkalinity levels.

More information about the SEA-Mate™ is available at:

<http://www.innov-x-sys.com/interior//products/oil>

### **About Innov-X Systems**

Innov-X Systems is a vital new force in the x-ray fluorescence (XRF) industry. Their systems perform fast, accurate chemical analysis in seconds to identify, differentiate and quantify most materials by elemental composition. Founded in 2001, they pioneered handheld XRF instrumentation using a miniature x-ray tube rather than radioactive isotopes.

With R&D and manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Innov-X has offices in Europe (the Netherlands), and Asia (Hong Kong). They maintain sales and service alliances in Canada, the Middle East, Latin America and worldwide. Service, installation and training is available in over 100 countries.

More company information is available at <http://www.innov-xsys.com>.

#### Contacts:

Suzanne Moller, National Sales Manager  
781-938-5005  
Email: sales@innov-xsys.com

Press Contact:  
Carrie-Ann Doucette, Marketing Specialist  
781-938-5005  
Email: CDoucette@innov-xsys.com

Innov-X Systems, Inc.  
100 Sylvan Road, Suite 100  
Woburn, MA 01801  
Toll Free: 866.4.Innov-X  
Phone: 781.938.5005  
Fax: 781-938-0128  
Email: info@innov-xsys.com