

SETARMS Project: Sustainable Environmental Treatment and Reuse of Marine Sediment

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Introduction:

The English Channel is acknowledged as one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world and fishing is also a key industry. To accommodate the ever increasing size of modern ships in European ports and waterways, and to prevent natural silting up of harbour entrances, significant dredging activity is constantly required to enlarge, deepen and maintain harbour access and achieve appropriate water depths along waterside facilities.

These dredging activities are essential for the local economy and generate dredging materials. Sediment management faces tighter regulation and the scarcity of land for storage.

To tackle this challenge that concerns so many stakeholders on both sides of the Channel ports managers and owners, public works companies, research labs, etc – a Franco- British partnership was created to research common solutions, with the support of the EU programme INTERREG IVA France (Channel) England.

Methods: This partnership structure gathers ports, local authorities, universities and private companies and allows the project to be realistic, pragmatic and innovative.

1	APLM - Association française des Ports Locaux de la Manche - Chef de file du projet
2	ARMINES
3	Conseil Général des Côtes d'Armor
4	Ecole des Mines de Douai
5	ESITC Caen, Ecole Supérieure d'Ingénieurs des Travaux de la Construction, Epron (14)
6	EUROVIA
7	Grand Port Maritime du Havre
8	LASEM, Cherbourg
9	Ports Normands Associés
10	Université de Brighton
11	Université de Caen - (ERPCB)
12	Université de Exeter et son Ecole des Mines de Camborne, Cornouaille.

Key to project success is the engagement of decision makers from France and the U.K, as well as the existing links through the Franco-British Federation of Regional and Local Ports. All regions bordering the Channel are involved.

As far as the English partners are concerned, the Universities of Brighton and Exeter, working closely with their French colleagues, are contributing their knowledge and expertise on this subject. Sediment samples to be analysed will be provided by one of the biggest dredging companies on the Channel: Westminster Boskalis, in co-operation with the port authorities of: Shoreham, Newhaven, Fowey, Poole and Falmouth.

FIG.1- SAMPLING SITES



The industry already gave its positive support to the project (Eurovia, Westminster Boskalis).

WORK PACKAGES

The project is organised in 4 work packages:

- 1 - Overview of the current situation on dredging in the Channel**
- 2 – Sediment characterisation**
- 3 - Stimulate and validate new methods to re-use dredged sediments in civil engineering.**
- 4 – Results summary, partnership co-ordination, and dissemination of the results**

Results: SETARMS partners will work jointly for the economic development of Channel Sea ports by finding modern economic and environmental solutions, based on robust scientific work. The results will be applicable and transferable in the Channel area and beyond.

