



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNO Professor Receives Funding For Oil Cleanup Project

(July 9, 2010, New Orleans, La.) – Dr. Enrique La Motta, University of New Orleans professor of civil engineering, has received a commitment of \$14,000 from two companies to develop a water treatment system designed to clean up the oil-polluted Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. La Motta is working with Ecolotron, Inc. of Dickinson, Texas and TS Technologies of Porsgrunn, Norway which manufacture equipment that can be installed on board of skimming vessels to treat polluted water.

Ecolotron, Inc. has made an initial donation of \$5,000 and TS Technologies has given \$7,000. Each company has committed to donate \$14,000.

Dr. La Motta is seeking approval and additional funding to implement the technology from the Interagency Alternative Technology Assessment Program (IATAP) of the United States Coast Guard Research and Development Center.

Dr. La Motta selected Ecolotron, Inc. and TS Technologies because their equipment has produced successful results in treating contaminated water. He is confident the same technologies will be able to clean the oil-polluted sea water in the Gulf at a level that will exceed the water quality requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency.

In order to conduct preliminary experiments in UNO's environmental engineering labs, the researchers will need large samples of sea water in 55-gallon drums, which they have requested from the Coast Guard, the EPA, and BP contractors.

Dr. La Motta will then submit those test results to the IATAP, and if the project is approved, it will be up to BP to implement the technology.

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The University of New Orleans (UNO), the urban research University of the State of Louisiana, provides essential support for the educational, economic, cultural and social well-being of the culturally rich and diverse New Orleans metropolitan area. It opened its doors in 1958 as part of the Louisiana State University System "to bring public-supported higher education to Louisiana's largest urban community." Today, UNO offers 43 undergraduate degree programs, 37 masters, and 11 doctoral programs. The 340-acre main campus sits on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, offering easy access to all parts of the metro area.