

# SHIP *to* SHORE

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## The GSSC Mission

To promote increased productivity and improved competitiveness in the gulf coast shipbuilding industry.

## GSSC Celebrates Charter Meeting

Members of the Gulf States Shipbuilders Consortium (GSSC) celebrated the official formation of the association at a charter member meeting December 14 at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier, Mississippi. The consortium is a partnership among shipbuilders in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana; Greater New Orleans, Inc.; as well as Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) agencies in the three states.

Last year, the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), the MEP for the state, was awarded a \$750,000 grant by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to assist shipbuilders affected by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast. The formation of the GSSC will address one of the most pressing challenges facing the shipbuilding industry—the lack of available and skilled workers for the industry.



*Members of the newly formed GSSC Board of Directors.*

Byron Dunn, director of the ATN Center in Brewton, Alabama, presided over the charter meeting and explained that in addition to the formation of the GSSC, the grant will address additional key goals for the shipbuilding industry. According to Dunn, the goals include:

- the development of accepted skills standards and the implementation of a shipbuilding careers marketing campaign;
- the implementation of a worker sharing program

Now that the consortium has been officially formed, the group will begin working on the key goals and objectives as well as recruiting new members, formalizing committees, and scheduling meetings to address the issues facing the shipbuilding industry on the Gulf Coast.

## GSSC Board of Directors

### **Dennis Fanguy**

Bollinger Shipyards  
Chairman of the Board

### **Byron Dunn**

Alabama Technology Network  
President of the Board

### **Dr. Jim Cornell**

Alabama Technology Network  
Vice President

### **Corrine Dupuy**

MEP-Louisiana  
Secretary

### **Jerold Shepard**

VT Halter Marine  
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### **Tim Sheib**

Bender Shipbuilding & Repair

### **Dr. Jay Tice**

MEP-Mississippi

### **Lisa Tomlin**

Greater New Orleans, Inc.

### **Tom Williams**

Atlantic Marine

## Want to Learn More?

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## GSSC Members in the News!

### ATN Through OSHA Alliance is Developing 10-hour OSHA Maritime Training Program

On January 17, 2007, Alabama Technology Network (ATN) joined forces with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Gulf Coast Maritime Safety Association (GCMSA) and the Alabama Physical Therapy Association (ALAPTA) to promote safer, more healthful work environments, particularly for those in the maritime industry. According to OSHA's website, "Through the Alliance Program, OSHA works with groups committed to safety and health, including businesses, trade or professional organizations, unions and educational institutions, to leverage resources and expertise to develop compliance assistance tools and resources and share information with employers and employees to help prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the workplace."

Recognizing the critical need for safety training in the maritime industry, ATN and other alliance program participants are working with two OSHA Training Institute (OTI) centers, the Texas Engineering Extension Service and the University of South Florida, to develop curriculum for OSHA Maritime 10 Hour and 30 Hour Train-The-Trainer courses. When the curriculum is approved, the courses will be piloted with the GCMSA member organizations. After the pilot period, the courses will be available to the maritime industry. For more information, contact Byron Dunn at 251-660-1625, ext. 101.

## Industry Survey - Look for It!

GSSC will be surveying shipbuilders in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi to develop a workforce profile of the maritime industry along the Gulf Coast in the coming months. The information obtained from the survey will be used by GSSC to develop training programs that best meet the needs of the industry as well to create an effective marketing program in an effort to recruit workers to the Gulf Coast shipping industry.

The survey can be completed online and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Details regarding completion of the survey will follow.

## Did You Know?

According to a survey of shipbuilders conducted by the Advanced Shipbuilding Enterprise (ASE) Crosscut Panel in conjunction with the National Shipbuilding Research Program (NSRP), the top five most effective ways to attract or recruit new workers is

- Company Website
- Adult Referrals (Job Service, Manpower, etc.)
- Current/Past Employee Referrals
- Newspaper Advertising
- Radio or TV Spot Advertising

To view the complete report, visit [http://www.nsrp.org/documents/workforce\\_dev.pdf](http://www.nsrp.org/documents/workforce_dev.pdf)

*NSRP is structured as a collaboration of 11 major U.S. shipyards focused on industry-wide implementation of solutions to common cost drivers. NSRP's flagship R&D program, Advanced Shipbuilding Enterprise (ASE), targets solutions to consensus priority issues that exhibit a compelling business case to improve the efficiency of the U.S. Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Industry. Solutions include both leverage of best commercial practices and creation of industry-specific initiatives. Aggressive technology transfer to, and buy-in by, multiple U.S. shipyards is a requirement of all funded efforts.*

NSRP Website (<http://www.nsrp.org>)

## Join Now! Benefits of GSSC Membership

The benefits of GSSC membership are many, including:

- Networking among companies
- Business opportunities
- Assessment of incumbent and new workers based on industry accepted skill standards
- Skills "gap" training for incumbent and new workers
- Shipbuilding careers marketing program
- Sharing of manufacturing best practices
- Information on issues impacting the industry
- Information on advances in technology and continuous improvement
- Access to internet database of related companies
- Listing on GSSC website
- Members Directory
- Use of GSSC logo in advertising, stationery and business cards

Apply online at [www.gsship.org](http://www.gsship.org)!

## Member Spotlight



**BOLLINGER  
SHIPYARDS**

Bollinger Shipyards, Inc. is a provider of quality construction, repair and conversion products and services to both the military and commercial marine industry. Family owned and operated since 1946, Bollinger specializes in a wide variety of offshore and inland vessels.

Bollinger currently operates thirteen shipyards, all of which are ISO 9001:2000 registered and strategically located throughout South Louisiana and Texas with direct access to the central Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River. With 40 dry docks ranging in capacity from 100 tons to 22,000 tons, Bollinger Shipyards provides a wide variety of dry-docks and services for both shallow and deep-water vessels and rigs.