

PROACT FACT SHEET



An Environmental Resource sponsored by HQ Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

VEMSO: The Air Force Vehicle and Equipment Management Support Office

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Introduction

The Air Force Vehicle and Equipment Management Support Office (VEMSO), formerly the Management and Equipment Evaluation Program (MEEP), is an innovative program designed to promote testing and acquisition of commercially available equipment (e.g., shop tools/products and equipment) in support of logistic readiness and civil engineering missions. VEMSO supports all active duty bases, as well as Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force Reserve units worldwide. Governed by Air Force Instruction AFI 24-305 until October 2004 and then by AFI 24-302 thereafter, VEMSO is an Air Force Element located at Langley Air Force Base, VA.

VEMSO allows the Air Force to “test drive” a diverse array of state-of-the-art products before spending tax dollars to acquire equipment that may not be suited to military use. In this “Try-Before-You-Buy” program, manufacturers provide products to the Air Force, at no charge, for testing and evaluation in the shops where the items would normally be used.

Although the program focuses mainly on products related to logistic readiness and civil engineering activities, interest is increasing on items that address environmental issues at the base level.

What VEMSO Can Do For You

Acting as a bridge between industry and the Air Force, VEMSO strives to promote excellence in the work place, total environmental compliance and operational readiness. Through field evaluations, VEMSO identifies more effective and economical tools, equipment and vehicles, thus enhancing Air Force logistic readiness and civil engineering performance, productivity, pollution prevention, and environmental compliance. The equipment selected for evaluation is tested in the field by AF personnel who can best attest to the product’s possible benefits.

Proposing Products to be Tested

As stated in AFI 24-305 and later in AFI 24-302, VEMSO ranks projects according to their potential for improving productivity, performance, efficiency, and environmental protection within the Logistic Readiness and civil

engineering communities. VEMSO personnel are constantly on the lookout for new products to test by perusing trade shows, manufacturers’ brochures, and industry publications. Bases, major commands and manufacturers may also propose products for VEMSO testing. Environmental Projects proposed for testing are coordinated with the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE).

Any Air Force Logistic Readiness or civil engineering activity can submit a proposal to evaluate a product under VEMSO. The product must be readily available on the commercial market and have reasonable potential to improve either Logistic or civil engineering (including environmental) procedures. Proposals for projects should be channeled to VEMSO through the installation’s parent MAJCOM representative for Logistic Readiness projects and HQ AFCEA for civil engineering related issues. A request for project template is available on the VEMSO website.

Products selected for VEMSO testing are tracked to ensure they are fully used and tested during the evaluation period, which can last from six months to one year. As many as five bases may test a product at the same time. Upon evaluation of testing data, the Air Force approves only those products that allow personnel to complete tasks faster, better, or more efficiently than products currently being used. At the conclusion of the project testing period, the item is either returned to the manufacturer or, in some cases, purchased by the testing unit.

Sharing the Results

The VEMSO is responsible for preparing and distributing VEMSO status reports on their website. The status reports are divided into three parts: Part I describes projects that are undergoing testing; Part II describes projects that have completed testing, but are still undergoing data evaluation; and Part III describes completed projects. Each part is further broken down by area of interest. Categories include civil engineering, Logistic Readiness, environmental and “other.” VEMSO status reports explain both good and bad aspects of a product, helping base personnel decide if an item fits their specific needs. The report can be reviewed or downloaded from <https://www.vemso.hq.af.mil>. The report is also available via email upon request from VEMSO.

The data produced by the testing is shared with all Federal agencies and is used by VEMSO to recommend the adoption or non-adoption of the tested item by the Air Force. If a newly tested product is superior to something already in the Air Force inventory, the new item is usually selected to replace the less advantageous one. If a product is acceptable and eligible for stock number assignment, formal paperwork is submitted to VEMSO through the

parent MAJCOM for subsequent forwarding to the Item Manager. Otherwise, bases wanting to purchase the product must use established local purchasing procedures. When all testing and analyses have been completed, VEMSO also sends a final report to the manufacturer stating the testing results.

Examples of Completed Environmental Projects

Summarized below are selected examples of completed VEMSO environmental related projects. Inclusion of a product in this list does not constitute an endorsement by PROACT. For copies of VEMSO status reports, contact PROACT or VEMSO.

Equipment Evaluated: Model 3523, Pro Ultrasonic Cleaning System manufactured by Pro Ultrasonics, Inc., 101 Convention Center Drive, Suite 700, P. O. Box 27740, Las Vegas NV 89126; (909) 397-4118, Fax: 909-397-4258, website <http://www.proultrasonics.com>. The Pro Ultrasonic has a 40 gallon capacity and is 35" x 23" x 10.4" liquid depth; it has 2000 w ultrasonic power and 4000 w heat; 2-stage filter system and is 240 V Std. Pro Ultrasonics cleans automatically, allowing technicians to focus on more productive task. The cavitations bubbles created by the sound waves clean a wide variety of parts and surfaces, even hard to reach blind holes and crevices. Pro Ultrasonic replaces hazardous cleaning solvents that can place employees and the environment at risk. Equipment sizes to fit any need, from small bench-top models to large capacity tanks with agitation. Based on test results this equipment was recommended for Air Force use and can be procured using local purchase procedures.

Product Evaluated: Microbial Absorbent Reuse System (MARS) Bin with four (4) bags of Oil Sponge Remedial is manufactured by Green Line Environmental Products, 907 6th St. SW, Suite 809, Washington, DC 20024-3826; Tel: 1-800-332-6823; Fax: 202-554-3676; and website <http://www.glepro.com>. **The MARS Bin** is made of epoxy-coated stainless and galvanized steel for long service life. The reuse unit features a hinged top cover, removable grate and hinged front hopper door for easy refilling, dispensing and recovery of spent absorbent.

Measuring 24" x 19" x 30", the compact station holds over (3) bags of Oil Sponge Remedial Premium Absorbent giving your facility an ample containment/clean-up capacity of 55 gallons per occurrence. Non-sparking, 4" diameter wheels swivel for easy rolling and lock for stationary use. Based on test results, the Microbial Absorbent Reuse System Bin and Oil Sponge Remedial are recommended for Air Force use. Product can be procured through established local purchase procedures.

Product Evaluated: BioRem-2000 Surface Cleaner, manufactured by Clift Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 67154, Charlotte, N.C. 28226; 1-800-996-9901 and web site: www.cliftindustries.com. Bioremediation technology is the application of biological microbes to the clean-up of hazardous oil spills resulting in a safe, efficient and cost-effective solution. Bioremediation uses microbes, enzymes, oxygen and other nutrients to chemically transform oil into carbon dioxide and water. BioRem-2000 Surface Cleaner increases the surface area of the oil while the enzymes break down the contaminants into smaller molecules. The enzymes then attract the microbes and consume the oil leaving water and carbon dioxide as by-products. Once the reaction is complete, the enzymes break free to attach to another hydrocarbon source in order to repeat the same reaction. Based on test results, the BioRem-2000 Surface Cleaner, manufactured by Clift Industries, is **is recommended** for Air Force adoption for use on **epoxy finished flooring**. However, the BioRem-2000 Surface Cleaner, manufactured by Clift Industries, is **not recommended** for Air Force adoption for use on **concrete finished flooring**. Product can be procured through established local purchase procedures.

For more information about the VEMSO program, or to be added to the VEMSO Status Report Email list, contact:

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