



**Falck**



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## Falck gains US Gulf of Mexico position

Falck has acquired a majority interest in the Alford Group, a leading US provider of a range of training and safety services to the offshore oil and gas industry. Falck's training division, Falck Nutec, is a world leader in rescue and safety courses, especially for the offshore and maritime sector.

The acquisition provides Falck with a solid platform to pursue further business activities in the USA and the region.

"We are pleased to join Barry Alford and his team to form the base for Falck to expand into the oil and gas safety market in the region. Over time we plan to use this as a platform for our other activities, such as fire fighting and ambulance services to the US market," says Falck CEO Allan Sogaard Larsen.

Alford is the leading Gulf of Mexico provider of safety training, safety personnel, safety services and related services, including a patented safe enclosure for hazardous welding.

Founded in 1996, the business has grown considerably and offers a wide range of safety training courses, for example water survival, marine training, confined space training, fire fighting and first aid courses. Its safety personnel include firewatch, logistics, project consultants and paramedics.

Among Alford's safety services is the patented safe welding enclosure system, Hazardous Atmospheric Zone Telemetry (HAZTEC). This is an automated monitoring and control system offering a safe enclosure where welding can be performed in hazardous locations. The process eliminates shut-in time for platforms offering oil majors the key benefit of no loss of production during repairs and maintenance.

"Falck and Alford foresee significant cross-selling opportunities and the addition of HAZTEC to the Falck Training portfolio adds an important dimension to Falck's position as a global safety services provider," says Allan Sogaard Larsen.

In the future the business will be branded as Falck Alford.

"Alford's management team is excited to join the Falck family of companies. While Alford's growth has been consistent and exponential since its inception, we feel that this will open doors for even greater growth and

potential in the United States and other countries. We are excited to begin our new venture together as Falck Alford", says Barry Alford, CEO and President of the Alford Group.

The management team of Alford will continue unchanged.

The Alford Group consists of two companies, Alford Services Inc. and Alford Safety Services Inc. Together, the Alford Group expects a revenue of approximately 40 million dollars in 2008. Alford has almost 300 employees, of which approximately 100 are working offshore.

Alford is based in Houma, Louisiana, west of New Orleans and operates training centres in Lafayette, New Orleans and Houma. In addition Alford is present in Angola and Trinidad & Tobago.

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*Falck's training division, Falck Nutec, is the worlds leading provider of rescue and safety courses for the oil and gas, maritime, fire training and services sector, operating 18 training centers all over the world. In addition to this Falck is the largest private ambulance operator in Europe, providing ambulance services to the general public in seven countries in close collaboration with the authorities. Falck also provides a range of services within health, safety, road assistance and other assistance to corporate customers and private households in several European countries. Falck's mission for the past 102 years has been to prevent accidents and disease, provide assistance in situations of emergency, accidents or need, and help people move on with their lives after illness or an accident. Based on this mission, it is Falck's vision to develop a major international business working broadly within assistance, healthcare, rehabilitation, emergency management, rescue, safety and fire services.*

*Alford Services Inc & Alford Safety Services Inc are a leading Gulf of Mexico provider of Safety Services. From their 3 training centers in Houma, Lafayette and New Orleans the company delivers a wide range of specialist services focused on the oil and gas sector. Alford's concept is to provide a one-stop-shop for all oil companies' safety and training requirements and with the patented HAZTEC system is able to combine world leading safety protection together with credible value creation for its clients. Since its foundation in 1996 Alford has continued to adapt to the ever changing needs and demands of its customers and prides itself on its flexibility and customer service standards.*

*Please also visit our websites:*

*[www.falck.com](http://www.falck.com)*

*[www.alfordservices.com](http://www.alfordservices.com)*