

A conversation with Shaw Thompson of OMI Environmental Solutions

Shaw Thompson began his first job at OMI Environmental Solutions (formerly Oil Mop LLC) as a summer job in 1978. Thirty-five years later, Thompson, now president and CEO of the company, said hiring the right people and motivating them to succeed in their job is what has kept OMI Environmental Solutions a leader in the industry.

BIC Magazine recently visited with Thompson to learn more about OMI Environmental Solutions' rebranding efforts and how being available anywhere and anytime has given his customers the kind of service they require.

Q: What led to your position at OMI Environmental Solutions?

A: Actually, my entire career has been in the environmental response industry. I started working full time at Oil Mop in 1978, right after graduating from Louisiana State University. I have always enjoyed this industry and after pursuing other interests in emergency response and environmental consulting, I came full circle back to Oil Mop in 2003 as president and CEO to assist in its continued growth throughout the Gulf South. In the past eight years, we have expanded Oil Mop's geographic reach, developed additional

service lines, enhanced the products division, and expanded the types of companies and industries we support.

Q: What are your goals for OMI Environmental Solutions?

A: Our goal at this time is to be the premier environmental services and products company in the Gulf South operating in the safest and most efficient manner, while doing everything reasonably possible to prevent injury or damage to people, property and the environment. We also want to continue the success we've had in the emergency response business, while continuing to promote and grow our other lines of business such as Haz-Mat, tank cleaning, waste management, disposal, transportation, training, and environmental and safety products.

Q: What is the biggest news at OMI Environmental Solutions right now?

A: With the success our company has experienced in the emergency response business the past 40-plus years, we have continued to expand our service and product lines to meet the always-changing

needs of our customers. With our continued expansion, we found the name "Oil Mop" somewhat limited the perception our customers have concerning the various services and products we provide.

Because of that, we felt the need to be clear that we are not just about oil spills, as our name implies. Rebranding was the next step to promoting all our company has to offer. This month we are launching OMI Environmental Solutions, a new name that encompasses all we have to offer and aligns with our corporate initiatives. Even our logo is evolving.

Q: Are you looking to grow in new markets or expand in current ones?

A: Well, it is both. We currently have offices in 11 cities across Louisiana and Texas that service our various customers. If the need arises, we are able and do respond with teams anywhere. We also sell our environmental and safety products both nationally and internationally. With our new and expanded lines of business, we are always looking for opportunities to develop additional locations. When and where it is appropriate for growth, we will consider offices in other states that would strategically benefit our customers.

EXECUTIVE PROFILE



Shaw Thompson III
President and CEO
OMI Environmental Solutions

Q: What is your best management tactic?

A: It may sound a bit cliché, but "you are only as good as your people." I have found that hiring talented people and empowering them to do their job is essential in our type of service business. We have an outstanding team including managers who have the experience and expertise in their fields which allows them to provide our customers with solutions they need regardless of where or when the challenge arises. ●

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