

OVERVIEW OF THE INAUGURAL NICOLE MEETING, HANNOVER, MAY 22ND, 1996

(extracted from NICOLE News Volume 1 Part 1)

Inaugural meeting of the NICOLE network on May 22nd is a runaway success

NICOLE is a Europe wide initiative by industry and the European Commission to provide a forum for problem holders and researchers to come together to find workable solutions to the problems of contaminated land. It promises to be one of the largest environmental networks in Europe, with an initial budget of over 650,000 ECU, of which around 55% will come from industry. NICOLE is open to all organisations with an interest in contaminated land, both from within and outside the European Union. The first meeting of NICOLE attracted nearly 100 delegates from industry and academe from 17 countries. Ambitious targets for NICOLE were set:

- Eight technical workshops;
- Two scientific conferences reporting progress of EU funded research;
- A directory of research expertise (the NICOLE Information Base);
- "NICOLE inspired" research proposals to the Environment and Climate and Standards Measurement and Testing Programmes;
- Recommendations report of research needs for the 5th Framework Programme.

All of these developments will be reported in *NICOLE News* which will be produced twice yearly, and more detailed information will be available in separate publications available to NICOLE members.

NICOLE will be at the cutting edge of contaminated land management research world wide and will be a major influence on the development of contaminated land management approaches and research in the European Union. It is vital for Public Research enablers to be sure that the work they are supporting addresses the needs of industry to develop solutions which are not only effective, but which are also cost efficient and practical.

NICOLE is your opportunity to have your say. Its founding members are keen to see as many enthusiastic new members to the network as possible. If the network is to achieve the aims and influence it seeks then it needs your help, and help will be gratefully accepted at all levels.