

Highlights of the Eurocord and Cordage Institute 7th Joint Conference

From June 14–17, 2026, Eurocord welcomed members of the Cordage Institute to the Grande Real Santa Eulalia in Algarve, Portugal, for the organizations' 7th Joint Conference. The program combined technical discussions, educational presentations, a golf tournament, and an excursion near the Benagil Caves.

The conference brought together professionals from across the rope and cordage industry to exchange knowledge, build relationships, and explore opportunities for continued cooperation. Conversations during technical sessions, networking events, meals, and social activities allowed members of both organizations to share perspectives on common challenges and identify ways to move the industry forward together.

During Joint Technical Meetings, Alexys Nielsen of the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) introduced MEG 5 and discussed several proposed updates to the MEG 4 document. The session provided an opportunity for participants from both organizations to consider guidance and possible suggestions on the latest revision.

The keynote address by Professor Miguel Suarez-Vasquez, Ph.D., on supply chain risk management sparked a full morning of discussion. Members exchanged experiences and perspectives, demonstrating the value of bringing together professionals from different companies, countries, and areas of expertise.

Networking continued throughout the conference, including during the Ivory Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Monday evening. Bill Putnam of Yale Cordage received the Gale Foster Award of Merit in recognition of his years of service to the industry and the Cordage Institute. The Richards Technical Contribution Award was presented posthumously to Dr. Walter Paul and accepted by his family in recognition of technical contributions that continue to influence the industry today.

Elizabeth Huntley was also thanked for her years of service as President of the Cordage Institute and was presented with a plaque by Luis Padilla, who originally encouraged her to serve on the Board of Directors.

Congratulations to Fran Hoffman on being elected President and Christian Rheault on being elected Vice President of the Cordage Institute. David Rowatt, Forrest Sloan, Kris Volpenhein, and Travis Zahradka were also welcomed as new Board members.

The conference concluded with presentations from Eurocord and Cordage Institute members. The diversity of subjects and presenters reflected the depth of expertise represented by both organizations. The sessions also encouraged attendees to continue conversations, exchange ideas, and identify potential areas for future technical collaboration.

Presentations included:

- **Research into the Lifetime of High-Performance Slings in Offshore Installation Works**
Presented by Greg Mozsgai of BEXCO – Synthetic Ropes by BEKAERT and Marc Eijssen of Avient Protective Materials
- **Internal Scanning and Condition Monitoring of Synthetic Rope**
Presented by Elizabeth Huntley of Whitehill Manufacturing
- **Heat Effects of Fibres and Ropes**
Presented by John Flory of Tension Technology International
- **Damage Characterisation in Aramid Fibre Ropes Using Micro-CT and Spectroscopic Methods**
Presented by Ben Rolink of Teijin Aramid
- **Bio-Based Coatings and LCM/LCA – Climate Change and Sustainability: Which Direction Are We Heading?**
Presented by Koen Van Goethem and Loet Hoppe of I-Coats N.V.
- **Virtuous Circular Business Model**
Presented by Cristina Stefani and Gianluca Bernardi of Aquafil
- **Emerging Low-Creep HMPE Fiber Technologies in China: An Interim Comparative Assessment**
Presented by Rafael Chou and Yuhua Wang of Four Brothers Rope
- **Latest Innovations in Braiding Technology at Ratera**
Presented by Marc Freixas of Ratera

The 7th Joint Conference demonstrated the important role that international cooperation plays in advancing technical knowledge and addressing shared priorities. The Cordage Institute looks forward to hosting Eurocord in two years to continue building upon the relationships, conversations, and collaborative opportunities developed in Algarve.

We extend a special thank-you to the conference sponsors:

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Save the date for the Cordage Institute 2027 Annual Conference, taking place May 12–14, 2027, at The Wigwam in Phoenix, Arizona.