When an oil spill occurs, the affected coastal state may request assistance from EMSA through the European Commission’s Emergency Response Coordination Centre. EMSA puts together an offer including up-to-date information about the availability of vessels in the area and their mobilisation time.

Based on this information, the requesting party decides which EMSA contracted vessel and equipment to mobilise. Once the offer is accepted, the vessel(s) is fitted with the latest oil slick detection, containment and recovery equipment and is mobilised within 24 hours. It is then placed under the control of the requesting party.