

WINNER PROFILE



➔ **Meet: Donnie Wilson**
CEO, Elastec/American Marine
 Carmi, Illinois

➔ **The Challenge: Wendy Schmidt Oil Spill Cleanup XPRIZE**

\$1 million prize (in a competition conducted by the XPRIZE Foundation) for the best technology that would recover at least 2,500 gallons of oil per minute at a 70 percent oil-to-water efficiency rate. Judges included representatives from federal agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

➔ **The Prize:**
 \$1 million

💡 **The Solution:**

Elastec/American Marine developed a grooved, 64-disc skimmer that recovered oil at a rate of 4,670 gallons per minute, which exceeded the industry's previous best oil recovery rate tested in controlled conditions by more than three orders of magnitude.

☎ **For More About the Winner:**

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SUCCESS: IN HIS OWN WORDS

How has participating in this challenge helped you advance your solution?

After the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, it was evident that while technology to drill in deeper waters had advanced, the technologies to clean up spills had not improved since the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska. One of the reasons for this lack of innovation is the high cost to research, develop and test concepts in an unpredictable market. Oil spill response equipment demand rises and falls with the price of oil – even though disasters are immune to oil prices. The Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE gave Elastec a reason and a return (by winning the first place prize) to develop a new mechanical offshore skimming system using our grooved disc technology.

What is the impact of your solution for government, your community and society?

Elastec has spent almost four years incorporating our winning technology into a viable, scalable commercial product to have ready for inevitable offshore and nearshore oil spills. The Elastec X150 Skimmer Launching System is game-changing, environmentally intelligent system in oil spill response technology. This system should be the centerpiece of any offshore or nearshore response organization's environmental cleanup equipment *before* the next major oil spill happens. Without the Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE, the grooved disc technology may still be sitting on the shelf.

