

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cathy Baradell
(972) 235-3439
cbaradell@ideagrove.com

**Solomon Associates' Claire Cagnolatti
Promoted to Vice President of Chemical Studies**

*Accomplished performance improvement consultant
brings global experience in chemical and petrochemical operations management.*

DALLAS, December 22, 2009 – Solomon Associates, the leading performance improvement company for the global energy industry, today announced that Claire Cagnolatti has been named vice president of chemical studies. In this role, Cagnolatti will direct the company's authoritative benchmarking studies in chemical manufacturing, in addition to participating in individual consulting engagements with refining and petrochemical clients.

"Olefin and butadiene plants in 36 countries participate in our benchmarking studies for chemical facilities, and our clients represent more than 70 percent of the world's olefin production capacity," said Dale Emanuel, president of Solomon Associates. "Managing the most widely used comparative performance analysis in the industry is a significant responsibility, and one that we are confident in entrusting to Claire."

"As our clients well know, our chemical studies provide much more than data," Cagnolatti said. "The information we collect is analyzed and presented to serve as a strategic roadmap for chemical plant operators that wish to improve their manufacturing processes and increase their margins. This is important work, and I look forward to continuing it."

Cagnolatti has nearly three decades of experience working with chemical and petrochemical manufacturers. Prior to joining Solomon Associates in 1994, Cagnolatti spent 14 years in chemical and petrochemical plant operations for Occidental Chemical Company, Allied Corporation, and Stauffer Chemical Company. She has presented more than a dozen technical papers at conferences around the world since 2002, on topics ranging from energy and greenhouse gas emissions to plant maintenance and reliability.

Cagnolatti holds an MBA and a bachelor of science in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University.

About Solomon Associates

Based in Dallas, HSB Solomon Associates LLC is the world's leading performance improvement company for energy companies seeking to identify and close gaps in operational performance. Combining proven, patented methodologies with objective data analysis, and led by a team steeped in hands-on operational experience, Solomon Associates consistently helps clients with energy-intensive assets achieve greater efficiencies, enhanced reliability, and improved margins. Solomon Associates is part of HSB Group, Inc. To learn more about Solomon Associates, visit www.solomononline.com.