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Contact: Scott Baradell  
(972) 235-3439  
sbaradell@ideagrove.com

**Al Poling Joins Solomon Associates as Project Manager for RAM Study**

*Veteran maintenance and reliability professional brings more than 25 years of experience to new role.*

DALLAS, April 27, 2010 – Solomon Associates, the leading performance improvement company for the global energy industry, today announced that Al Poling has joined the company as project manager for the company's International Study of Plant Reliability and Maintenance Effectiveness (RAM Study). He will report to David Bossung, executive vice president of the company.

A mechanical engineer with more than 25 years of experience as a maintenance and reliability professional, Poling has held plant and corporate leadership positions with Union Carbide Corporation, Rhone Poulenc, SCM Chemicals, Albemarle Corporation, Shell Chemical, and KRATON Polymers. Most recently, he served as technical director for the Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals (SMRP), where he managed the development and publication of maintenance and reliability metrics.

"Al has a strong understanding, earned over decades, of the variables that can affect plant maintenance and reliability for refiners and chemical manufacturers," Bossung said. "We expect his efforts to enhance our study deliverables and improve the business performance of Solomon Associates' clients."

Poling holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering technology from Fairmont State University. He has been a Certified Maintenance & Reliability Professional (CMRP) since 2002.

Solomon Associates' RAM Study is designed to help clients identify and quantify areas for improved maintenance performance. The study provides the most comprehensive set of reliability and maintenance performance benchmark targets and best practices assessments in the industry, delivering significant contributions to the performance improvement initiatives of Solomon Associates clients.

### **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](http://www.solomononline.com).