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Observations: M.I.T.: Oil-absorbing nanotech could have cleaned up Deepwater in one month [video]


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It looks like a solar-powered treadmill, but researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) say they have created a flat, conveyor belt-like device that could clean up oil slicks far more efficiently than anything used at the Deepwater Horizon site. They key is a nanoparticle-infused, water-repelling mesh coating a conveyor belt. As important is the device's ability to work autonomously as part of a larger team of devices, which M.I.T. calls a Seaswarm.

Members of M.I.T.’s Senseable City Lab, which made a name for itself a year ago through its Trash Track program for keeping tabs on discarded electronics, will present their Seaswarm research—as well as a video demonstrating a prototype in action—Saturday at Italy's Venice Biennale international art, music and architecture festival. Venice Biennale's theme this year is how nanotechnology will change the way people live in 2050.

http://www.scientificamerican.com/blog/post.cfm?id=mit-oil-absorbing-nanotech-co...