Magnetic soap could aid oil spill clean-ups

Scientists at Britain's Bristol University have found a way to make soap magnetic, allowing for the possibility of more controlled and accurate clean-ups of future oil spills and other industrial accidents

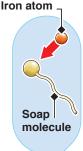
1 Iron atoms added to soap molecules



Oil molecules encased by soap micelles – oil slick begins to break up

Oil

Oroplets attracted to magnet, which draws soap and oil out of water







Droplets



Magnet

Soap dissolves in water and forms microscopic balls called *micelles*

Detergent can be fully removed

Soap