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Newsletter

”Improving retention of simulator based training”



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Project description










The project is a co-operation between shipping companies, simulator operators, a simulator manufacturer and a research company.

It started in July 2003 and will end in December 2004.

The principal objective is to improve learning outcomes of

simulator based training courses used by shipping companies.

The project partners are:

Shipping companies:	Simulator operators / others:
 BERGESEN ASA	 The Integrated Simulation Centre (ISC) of Singapore
 Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Skipsrederi AS	 Norwegian Training Center - Manila
 Odfjell ASA	 Ship Maneuvering Simulator Centre, Trondheim
 NSSPL NEPTUNE SHIPMANAGEMENT SERVICES (PTE) LTD	 Kongsberg Maritime
	 MARINTEK

Highlights:

- Started July 2003
- Ends in December 2004
- First report January 2004
- Findings

Project news:

The first deliverable, a state-of-the-art report on evaluation of simulator based training, was completed in January 2004. At present work is going on to finalize the second deliverable looking at blended learning systems and how to apply this concept within the project.

Pre-, on- and post course questionnaires have been developed and used. The first two

for simulator courses being part of case studies defined for each of the shipping companies. The post course questionnaires will be distributed to course participants 6 months after completed simulator based training course. Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Shipping (KGJS) distributed their first post course questionnaire the first week of February 2004 to masters signing off after their first contract as masters.

Instructor availability for former course participants

Course participants have been requested to use the simulator operators as knowledge centers for questions related to ship handling, bridge teamwork and bridge resource management. At this time of the project, communication will be through e-mail. Later on it is planned to implement discussion forums on the web site (s) for one/some of the simulator operators. More information will be given in the next newsletter. Here are the addresses to be used for questions to simulator instructors:

Capt. Odd Sundklakk, SMSC
odds@smc.no

Capt. Eddie Berueda, NTCM
training.manager@ntcm.com.ph

Capt. Yee Kuan Foong, ISC
Yee Kuan Foong@mpa.gov.sg

It is also possible for former course participants to forward questions on ship handling or simulator course content to MARINTEK's project manager Dr. ing. Tor Einar Berg at Toreinar.Berg@Marintek.sintef.no

Case presentations

Bergesen's case involves improving the courses "Ship Maneuvering and Handling" at Norwegian Training Center – Manila (NTC-M) and "Lightering operations, Phase 2" at Ship Manoeuvring Simulator Centre (SMSC). So far 8 officers have completed the course at NTCM and 4 at SMSC. Bergesen's goal for their case is to:

Implement new and improved procedures in the company Course Checklist for Basic Ship Handling Courses in Norway, The Philippines, India and Latvia.

Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Shipping's (KGJS) case involves improving the courses "Ship Maneuvering and Handling" at NTC-M and "Ship Handling, Advanced Rudder" at SMSC. KGJS will/may also give "Ship Handling, Advanced Rudder" at NTC-M for officers of any nationality. This course is for existing masters who will be joining the company's newer ships having Schilling rudder. So far 8 officers have completed the "Ship Maneuvering and handling" course

(others completed the "Ship Handling, Advanced Rudder" course shortly before the start of the project). KGJS has developed a company specific CES test to be used for knowledge assessment before and after the simulator course at NTC-M. Based on results of these tests, KGJS will discuss possible improvements of the course, necessary modifications in NTC-M CES test and how to cover topics not included in the course. Their principal goal is to:

Further develop and implement suitable procedures to maintain a high professional level in ship handling, including emergency maneuvering

Odfjell's case investigates ways to improve the courses "Ship Handling with Bridge Team and Resource Management" at

NTCM and "Bridge Team Training" at SMSC. So far 24 officers have completed the course in Manila and 18 at SMSC. Odfjell's goals for the project are to:

- Improve quality of simulator based training courses and obtain the same quality from all simulator operators used by Odfjell
- Develop assessment methods for simulator based training

Develop input to the company's Competence and Career Development System

Neptune Shipmanagement Service's case is related to use of the course "Bridge Resource Management cum Bridge Team Management" at Integrated Simulation Centre of Singapore. In 2003 15 senior officers completed the course. Neptune's goals for the project is to:

Develop a guideline on how to estimate optimal intervals for simulator based training



Acknowledgement

Research Council of Norway and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore are financially supporting the project under their Memorandum of Understanding for maritime R&D.

Findings from pre- and on course questionnaires

The pre course questionnaires show that most simulator course participants lack information on the course they are scheduled to attend and that none of the shipping companies have developed specific information material for distribution to course participants prior to a course.

KGJS have started doing pre-briefings of course

participants at NTC-M and they are developing an additional information pamphlet.

On course questionnaires tell that most of the course participants are satisfied with the simulator course they have completed. It has been stated that the challenge is to transfer the learning from the course to on board work tasks.

Simulator training tips:

1. Prepare yourself for a simulator based training course by reading the pre course material and specify what you would like to learn from the course
2. Take an active part in briefing and debriefing sessions for simulator exercises, increased activity gives increased learning outcomes

Additional information

For more information about the project go to the project web site at:

<http://www.marintek.sintef.no/eway/default0.asp?e=0&pid=209&lang=eng> (project website). Select UK flag and:

Click on "Research projects" in the left hand table of content. Click on "Research Council" in the left hand table of content

Click on "Improving retention of simulator based training" in the right hand table of content or contact MARINTEK's project manager at: Phone: +47 73 595670 (Switchboard +47 73 595500) Fax: + 47 73 595778 email: <mailto:Toreinar.Berg@Marintek.sintef.no>