

Simulation Based Training Centers Address Skilled Labor Shortage

12 August, 2014

The availability of skilled mining workers is a common struggle in many countries throughout the world, impacting mining productivity, safety and ultimately profitability. Many countries are forecasting dire shortages in the coming years due to unskilled talent pools, an aging workforce and increased mining production. The development of operator training programs is a key focus for governments, mines and educational institutions. In support of this industry challenge, Immersive Technologies' solutions have proven to be vital at numerous training centers around the world.

Saudi Mining Polytechnic, Saudi Arabia



The recently established Saudi Mining Polytechnic (SMP) at the Northern Region -KSA - has placed the most unique mining institute in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This daring industrial endeavor is consequent to consistent synergy between academia and industry. This immense leap comes in due time to build up a qualified pool of Saudi national mining trained workforce intended to support the Mining industry needs Kingdom-wide. For that mission, SMP has diligently partnered with Missouri University(S&T)-USA and TVTC-KSA to lay down the cornerstone for a world standard mining training center meant to contribute to the national economy growth through a local workforce supply strategy. Within a well-established training pattern, talented Saudi High School Graduates are enrolled for a 30-month blended theoretical and technical training program ending with a diploma awarding and a regular mining job employment.



Students at Saudi Mining Polytechnic are able to train on underground and surface equipment through the use of Immersive Technologies' simulators. Courses in the training center allow for students to observe classmates and review their own simulation sessions while instructors can manage and run reports through a centralized control station.



IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Media Release

Phone: +61 8 9347 9011

Email: enquiries@ImmersiveTechnologies.com

Fax: +61 8 9347 9090

Web: www.ImmersiveTechnologies.com



Simulation Delivering Safety and Productivity

College of the Rockies, Canada



At the College of the Rockies in Canada a highly technical course has been developed to train for high skilled operators. The school utilizes five PRO3 Advanced Equipment Simulators for their training purposes.

“We have developed a four week haul truck operator program which incorporates online learning, substantial time on the simulators covering various scenarios from safety and handling emergencies to general operations and various weather conditions,” says Leah Bradish, Director - Continuing Education, Contract Training and Campus Operations at College of the Rockies.

The course limits the number of participants to keep the class sizes very small and allow for one-on-one instruction. Graduates say they gain high levels of confidence, understand mine operation procedures and the importance of operating equipment safely and productively after completing the program.

“One of the simulators is housed on a truck for mobile delivery and travels anywhere in Western Canada to deliver the program. In August 2014 we will have graduated more than 100 students at the one year mark of the program delivery. Our students are finding work at local area mines but also at companies all over British Columbia and into Fort McMurray,” Bradish says.

Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk and Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett were able to experience the simulation training available through the College of the Rockies. Bennett congratulated the college for their efforts in providing a high level of training for jobs that are in high demand.

“Haul-truck simulators at the college are preparing students in the region for British Columbia’s mining sector with hands-on training,” said Virk.



In addition to their training center programs, College of the Rockies also runs a mobile training simulator course and travels anywhere in Western Canada to deliver the program.

Technical Training Agency (OTEC) Edutecno, Chile



Edutecno, a unique educational training center, in the heart of Santiago, has been dubbed as the regions first virtual experience center. They provide hands on haul truck training in a country where skilled operators are in high demand.

Programs are designed based on the standards of area mining operations and tailored to individual company requirements ensuring qualified graduates. The facility customizes offerings in accordance with the trends and current needs of the labor market. According to a study by Fundación Chile there is a shortfall of 8,000 workers in the in the profession of operators in the Chilean mining industry. Innovum Fundación Chile Manager, Hernán Araneda, recently addressed a graduating class of haul truck operators at Edutecno about the accomplishments they had achieved and congratulated them on their new skills and willingness and interest to work in the mining sector.

"The graduates are at the quality level expected by mining. To achieve this we put great effort on having appropriate infrastructure and state-of-the-art technology. We use first rate simulators and the mining industry can be confident our graduates are trained with the technology and training packages they use," said Leonardo Montenegro, Mining Center and Transport Manager at Edutecno.

The ability to train large numbers of students and produce graduates favorable for employment in the mining industry is essential to the training center, "in quantitative terms it is a tremendous benefit, given that we are providing the labor market with people well-trained for the mining industry, which shows significant gaps in human capital for precisely the trades in which we are preparing them," Montenegro said.



Students at Edutecno in Santiago, Chile are able to train to become haul truck operators on simulators in a unique training environment. Chile faces a mining worker shortage and state dignitaries were on hand at a recent graduation ceremony of haul truck operators to applaud them for their efforts and support of the mining industry.

##

About Immersive Technologies

Immersive Technologies is the world's largest, proven and tested supplier of surface and underground Advanced Equipment Simulators to the global mining industry. The company has achieved this unique position by focusing on its mission to make every mining and earthmoving equipment operator in the world safer and their employer more profitable through its simulation technologies. Immersive Technologies' Advanced Equipment Simulators are helping hundreds of mining companies around the world to increase their equipment operators' safety and site profitability through effective simulation training.

Immersive Technologies provides its customers with the most effective Advanced Equipment Simulators available. This is made possible through the formal exclusive licensing and technical information alliances Immersive has established with the leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), including: Caterpillar, Hitachi, Komatsu and Liebherr. These unique alliances provide Immersive Technologies with exclusive access to the OEM's proprietary and confidential machine technical information that is required to correctly simulate the OEM's machines and is not available through other public or dealer channels.

With advanced simulators modules deployed in 36 countries, Immersive Technologies is dedicated to provide outstanding service. To deliver on this commitment the company has customer sales and support offices located close to its customers in Perth and Brisbane Australia, Salt Lake City USA, Calgary, Ottawa & Vancouver Canada, Monterrey Mexico, Lima Peru, Santiago Chile, Bochum Germany, Johannesburg South Africa, Jakarta Indonesia, Kolkata India and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Immersive has the global mining experience, innovative technology, product range, OEM relationships, proven support commitment and industry vision to partner with you to ensure your simulator training solution delivers the significant results you expect.

For more information and associated media please contact:

Ashley Mullaney

Public Relations Manager

Immersive Technologies

amullaney@ImmersiveTechnologies.com | Tel: +61 (8) 9347 9011

www.ImmersiveTechnologies.com