

Moving Forward in Simulation

Simulation has been identified as a major focus for the resources industry and the team at the Mining Industry Skills Centre are currently working on the implementation of a strategy to support the development and application of simulation for the industry.

The work being completed by the simulation and e-Learning team can be broken down into four main areas: research, learning and education, leadership and development. The projects currently being worked on in each area are:

RESEARCH

Simulation Research

- As knowledge of simulation and its application to the mining industry is not readily available we are introducing a research centre to develop industry understanding of the potential of simulation training.
- A service approach will inform the industry and position the Skills Centre as a leading agency of information about simulation development.

Current Activity:

Papers will be published regularly and a summary of current and future research projects will be published as an e-newsletter every six months. Mining Industry Skills Centre is pleased to be partnering with the University of Queensland and CTC in an Australia Resources Council Linkage grant examining simulation effectiveness.

LEARNING & EDUCATION

Online Mining College

- Simulation is most successful when supported by appropriate training materials.
- Quality training materials contribute toward leading practice training methodologies to support the development of a skilled workforce and achieving a consistent standard of training across the resources industry.
- An instructional design team has been established; training materials to support heavy equipment simulators are currently being piloted.
- Online training and support features in mature simulation programs and are seen as essential to developing simulation as part of a total training solution for the resources industry.
- An e-Learning strategy will be developed for the industry.
- An online mining college will be a hub for sharing leading practice online learning in the resources industry.

Current Activity:

An e-Learning strategy will be published in October 2008. A range of e-Learning products and services, including a new GI program will be available early in 2009.

SIMULATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP

Governance Service

- Governance, including standards and guidelines, is essential for successful technology programs to ensure maximum benefits are realised.
- Industry consultation commenced for the development of guidelines for appropriate use of simulation within the training mix. These guidelines will assist trainers and assessors in fitting simulation into their training program as well as inform simulation suppliers of industry needs.

Current Activity:

Mining Industry Skills Centre works in partnership with the Simulation Industry Association of Australia to promote resource sector interests in the national and international simulation forums. Our engagement is currently at three levels – Mining Industry Skills Centre CEO Derek Hunter is Chair of the Mining and Construction Special Interest Group, the Skills Centre Simulation and e-Learning Manager Deanna Hutchinson is convenor of the national simulation conference SimTecT, and Senior Researcher Christine Jones represents the resources and construction sectors on the Standards Australia committee for Simulation and Modelling Standards. Draft simulation standards will be published in December 2008.

DEVELOPMENT

New Simulation Development

- Current simulation capability in the resources industry caters for a small percentage of the total workforce and none of the roles under skills shortage pressure.
- Industries such as aviation, health, defence, homeland security and rail are benefiting from advanced simulation capability.
- Work has commenced on collaborative development of new simulation products to support priority training needs in the industry.

Current Activity:

The Skills Centre is proud to be partnering with Qld Mines Rescue Service to develop a simulation to support the Mine Emergency Management System.

For further information on Simulation Research and Development, please contact the Skills Centre on 07 3872 8500, email info@miskillscentre.com.au, or visit www.miskillscentre.com.au

