

Super-real sim takes training to next level

SeaWays Global has taken its highly successful tug training provision to a new level, with its move to a state-of-the-art simulation centre on the UK's south coast

Aiming to provide the best possible training experience, SeaWays Global has chosen a new training facility for its simulation-based courses.

The world-class training centre, located at the Transas Academy's facilities at Lakeside North Harbour in Portsmouth, UK, boasts first class equipment, the latest software, newest technologies and highly realistic visualisation in each of its simulators.

The training facility houses the full range of Transas simulation equipment, including full mission bridge simulators, full mission and part-task tug simulators and a full mission engine room simulator. The training suite also includes large classrooms and smaller simulation briefing rooms, where preparation and debriefing on all exercises is carried out.

All the simulators are the latest generation of the Transas Navi-Trainer Professional 5000 (NTPro 5000) and feature ship-like consoles with a complete set of dedicated hardware controls and professional displays for all bridge functions.

The tug simulator is a key element of the SeaWays Global training programmes. It has been specially developed in conjunction with Transas and features 360-degree vision via 44 LED screens, with 31 computers running the advanced software, along with the latest Rolls-Royce controls and electronics, ASD, ATD, CTS and VSP controls, and Damen-supplied winch controls.

Transas solutions manager, ship modelling, Alexander Ozersky, said: "The development of the tug models was quite challenging, because unlike larger vessels a tug moves in very different and unique motion



models – for instance, indirect towing. So Transas appreciated that the SeaWays team not only shared its expertise, but also executed full-scale tug tests to measure the vessel's manoeuvring properties and towing capabilities in different manoeuvres.

"This data helped Transas to develop the more precise tug models and effects required for the tug training, such as hull interaction, propeller wash interaction, fendering and towline simulation."

The software development involved a team of computer programmers and modelling team working with SeaWays' team of tug master trainers for more than 12 months, enabling trainees to perform 55 separate aspects of tug operations during the training.

The training sessions are set in the virtual world of 'Port SeaWays' – designed and modelled by the managing directors of the SeaWays Group, Capt Neil Sadler and Capt Steve Sandy, to provide a realistic port setting for an exhaustive series of exercises, all of which are recorded and re-viewable via the

▲ *The 360-degree tug simulator is a key element of SeaWays' training programme and has been specially developed in conjunction with Transas*

big screen playback system in the instructors' room and classroom.

Sandy, MD for Asia, Africa and Europe, said: "Our training programmes are internationally recognised and accredited. We hold accreditation from leading classification society ClassNK, placing us in the highest tier of training providers. This accreditation means it is crucial for SeaWays Global to deliver its training in a state-of-the-art facility – which we believe to be the most advanced tug sim in the world – so we can continue to provide cutting-edge training to our trainees."

By bringing expertise and technology together, SeaWays Global helps its trainees to bridge the gap between their existing and required competency levels, as well as building all-important confidence and muscle memory in a controlled and safe environment.

Currently, SeaWays Global offers a variety of simulation-based training courses. Tug masters can complete courses in ASD/ATD tug handling, ASD/ATD harbour towage, and active escort. In addition, SeaWays Global provides an 'Effective use of tugs for maritime pilots' course, which has been designed to meet the needs of pilots working with the constantly changing design of tugs. This course has already been delivered to more than 400 maritime pilots all over the world. The training is mostly conducted on the full-mission bridge simulator, enabling a wide range of basic and advanced training exercises to be carried out. SeaWays Global can also work with individual clients to provide fully customised training solutions.



◀ *SeaWays Global managing directors and trainers, Capt Neil Sadler (left) and Capt Steve Sandy, take a virtual tour around 'Port SeaWays'*