

Vortex and Antycip Simulation Partner with PNI Training Centre in Norway to Deliver Team-based Offshore Crane Training Solutions

Vortex, Antycip Simulation and PNI build an industry first for simultaneous team-based training of offshore oil-and-gas crane operations to ensure safe lifting practices based on OMHEC, API, NORSOK and UK-HSE training standards.

April 26, 2010, Montreal, Canada – [CMLabs](#), the training-solution company for heavy equipment operation, announced today the acquisition of two state-of-the-art Vortex Crane Simulator installations by [PNI Training Centre](#) in Norway for training crane operators, banksmen and slingers. This unique team-based training environment promotes a safety-first approach to performing offshore heavy-lift operations. From initial toolbox-talk to simultaneous multi-player operations and after-action review, Vortex Crane Simulators offer a complete classroom-based solution for team training.

“After an extensive search for the right combination of simulation-based crane training expertise, team-based immersive learning and a proven track record for delivering on-time, we chose Vortex for our training solution,” said Geir Gislason, Chairman, PNI Training Centre. “An essential aspect of our crane operations training is teamwork – training operators, slingers and banksmen simultaneously to prepare them for typical tasks and challenges in offshore operations. Vortex was the only provider we found that has this expertise, and together we have created an industry first for heavy-lift training operations. Our students will really benefit – the results will be more experienced and skilled crews, and safer operations.”

Working in close partnership with PNI, the Vortex team combined its simulator expertise with PNI’s training experience and Antycip Simulation’s European-based technical support, creating an integrated and immersive training solution. Development includes capturing extensive visual imagery and procedures from offshore drilling platforms, as well as working to exact crane specifications and operating procedures for pedestal boom, knuckle boom and pipe-handling systems. The project features the creation of many in-depth training exercises for rig and supply ship lifts, internal lifts, subsea lifts on intervention ships and even tandem lifts with two simulated cranes. Training exercises involve the crane operator, banksman and slinger in a multi-player interactive virtual world.

To enhance skills acquisition, scenarios are recorded for playback and evaluation. The instructor is an active participant and can walk through the worksite, trigger equipment faults, alter weather conditions and view team performance. The solution provides a truly collaborative framework for training based on requirements from OMHEC, API, NORSOK, UK-HSE and other offshore operator training standards.

“Our simulator solution for PNI will be a significant addition to their training program,” stated Arnold Free, VP Business Development at CMLabs. “With this fully interactive training environment, PNI will enjoy a significant return on investment (ROI), allowing them to accelerate and improve skills acquisition, lower the costs of training on actual equipment, and help attract new customers and students. With Vortex Crane Simulators, PNI will provide industry-defining offshore operator training.”

Vortex Crane Simulator Highlights

- **Team-based training framework:** Allows PNI to simultaneously train crane operators, slingers, and banksmen (signalmen), all working together for goal-based learning.
- **Practical and in-depth scenarios:** Covers typical offshore lift operations such as off-loading, back loading, drill pipe and riser handling, subsea installations, personnel transfers, and tandem lifts.
- **Fully realistic 3D visuals:** All scenarios are based on actual imagery shot on modern drill rigs – so training exercises accurately reflect the real work environment.
- **Promotes skills acquisition:** Many features enhance learning, including beginner through advanced scenarios, performance metrics, navigation aids, and team after-action review.
- **Based on OMHEC standards:** The simulators are based on the Offshore Mechanical Handling Equipment Committee requirements for training as well as standards from the API and UK-HSE.

- **Immersive training environment:** Features multiple large wide-screen HD displays, authentic crane controls, machine and ambient sound effects, plus variable weather and sea-state conditions to prepare students for real work conditions.
- **Rig- and ship-based cranes:** Includes an offshore pedestal boom crane, knuckle boom crane and pipe-handling systems for both drill rigs and intervention ships.



Vortex Crane Simulator installation for PNI Training Centre, showing team-based learning setup, plus an off-loading operation on the virtual drilling platform.

About CMLabs and Vortex Simulators

The Vortex team provides simulation-based training solutions to companies and training facilities in the construction, mining, oil and gas, port operations and marine sectors. With a long history in simulation-based heavy-equipment training, the Vortex team produces feature-rich immersive environments that set the standard for interactive team-based skills development. Vortex expertise and technology bring intelligent training, operations planning, and virtual prototyping to life around the world. Vortex customers include Honda, John Deere, L-3, Lockheed Martin, NASA, Carnegie Mellon University, and over 100 other leading companies and educational institutions. To learn more about CMLabs and Vortex Simulators, visit www.vxsim.com or contact info@vxsim.com.

About PNI Training Centre

PNI Training Centre in Stavanger, Norway is a leading provider of training solutions for both offshore drilling and crane operations. PNI offers a wide range of training to NORSOK standards and OLF guidelines with the goal of building safe, knowledgeable and skilled operators and support personnel. They provide hands-on and classroom instruction in their state-of-the-art Stavanger training facility. PNI is certified by IWCF, API TPCP™, PSK (Petroleumindustriens Senter for Kvalitetsikring av kompetanse), ASAS Certification, and member of the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA). To learn more about PNI Training Centre, visit www.pni.no.

About Antycip Simulation

Antycip Simulation, a subsidiary of ST Electronics (Training & Simulation Systems) Pte Ltd., is the European leader in the provision of independent modelling and simulation COTS tools, projection systems and related engineering services. With over 10 years of expertise as a preferred supplier of governments, top universities, research laboratories and private sector companies, Antycip Simulation has accumulated experience in diverse industries including Defence, Aerospace, Security, Transportation, Automotive, Telecommunications and Education. Antycip represents and supports Vortex products throughout Europe. To learn more about Antycip Simulation, visit www.antycipsimulation.com.