Enhancing Student Employability with Simulation: The Virtual Oil Rig and DART

Introduction
The School of Engineering at RGU has made significant investment in developing methods to ensure graduates are “industry-ready”. Two approaches are highlighted here. As visits to oil rigs are not often possible or practical for students, it was decided to develop a virtual space for students to familiarise themselves with aspects of the offshore environment. In addition to this, the DART was installed on campus for simulation of a number of critical processes. These simulation tools give students experiences that can increase their desirability to employers.

The RGU Virtual Oil Rig, and Surrounds
• Development of semi-submersible rig (Using OpenSim)
• Set in ocean environment with sea life
• Moving parts and sound
• Buildings “onshore” to showcase posters/materials
• Lecture Hall for live streaming events
• Visitors click on objects for information and linked videos
• Social areas for staff and students,
(based on the OVC OAR*)

Collaboration – University of Edinburgh
• Experimenting with porting the RGU Virtual Oil Rig via the OpenSim OAR Converter to Unity3D (available through http://sine.space/world)
• Investigating use in virtual environments designed for use with VR headsets

DART – Dynamic, Advanced, Responsive, Training
• Full-scale reproduction of offshore platform or land rig
• Touch screen consoles for driller and assistant
• 3D graphics of rig drill floor
• Equipment projected onto a 60ft cinema screen
• Realistic, dynamic graphics and sounds simulating what the driller would see and hear on the rig.

Next Steps
• Further integration into taught modules
• Use DART and the Virtual Oil Rig for assessment of key skills
• VR simulations with DART
• Increasing student partnership

More Information and Image Sources
• Virtual Oil Rig http://sine.space/world
• DART http://www.rgu.ac.uk/student-life/virtual-tours/riverside-east/dart-simulator-virtual-tour/
• Blog Featuring Rig: http://blog.inf.ed.ac.uk/atate/2017/01/24/sine-space-rgu-oil-rig-region-live/

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*Open Virtual Collaboration Environment Open Access Repository