

business back-up

simulator special

Transit Business Back-Up is your guide to new products and services for the passenger transport industry

Train simulator expertise sees growing order book from around the world



Leaving Newcastle in the Corys GNER simulator

Train driving simulation specialist Corys continues to grow with more and more operators worldwide choosing bespoke driver training solutions from the leading French based supplier.

Showcased at Railtex 2007 was the Corys GNER Class 91 simulator. This internationally tendered contract for eight simulators (4 HST and 4 Class 91) will now be installed at GNER depots at Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds & London Kings Cross. The simulators include over 100 miles of visual database covering from Newcastle to Alnmouth, Kings Cross to Peterborough and Craigentiny depot.

Commenting on the contract, Paul Larty, GNER simulator strategy manager, said: "We now look forward to implementing the simulators to develop the skills of our drivers

through frequent, regular practice of unusual out of course and high risk scenarios, which drivers will rarely see in daily operations but which require immediate feedback on their driving."

Recently delivered to the French national rail operator SNCF were 14 simulators for driver training on the high speed TGV routes. The simulators will be used to train drivers on the new LN6 line between Paris and Strasbourg in addition to the lines to Frankfurt and Basil, including 5 signalling systems of which the ERTMS signalling system will be used for the first time in France. The simulators will now be intensively used to train the 150 drivers in the six months prior to the start of the service.

In Australia Queensland Rail awarded Corys the contract to renovate their locally supplied Sydac Class 3000 simulator. Queensland Rail chose Corys to upgrade this simulator due to a leading technology base, an unrivalled freight simulator and high levels of after sales support.

Hot on the heels of this deal, last month MAV Hungarian State Railways awarded Corys the contract to supply one static replica cab simulator and two desktop simulators. The scope of supply includes the modelling of the Siemens Taurus and the M41 diesel-hydraulic locomotives, as well as a geospecific computer generated imagery database representing the railway line between Budapest and Győr. The line will be equipped with both the Hungarian EVM and the European ETCS signalling systems.

On-going contracts in the USA include 5 simulators for Metra with over 290 route miles simulating the 12 commuter lines serving downtown Chicago from the outlying Chicago suburbs. The simulators will be used as part of an on-going process of enhancing engineer training and will be housed in Metra's headquarters, near Union Station in the midwestern city.

● For more information about Corys, please contact John Madden +33 476 288 288
Email: jmadden@corys.fr
Website: www.corys.com



Corys TGV simulator that will be used to train drivers on the new TGV route between Paris and Strasbourg

VigilVanguard system promoted as an alternative to conventional simulators

AS COMMUTER numbers across Europe and the UK rise, the risk of accidents occurring is also increasing as transport systems feel the pressure of public demand. Now, more than ever before, safety has to be a primary responsibility and a top priority for every professional transport operator.

Training technology is helping to improve the understanding of driving behaviour so that training becomes much more focused and effective. Amongst the variety of training tools available, an Australian-based technology company is captivating transport operators worldwide with their innovative on-road driver training and evaluation system which is being touted as the "real world" equivalent to a conventional simulator system.

The VigilVanguard system is the brainchild of Australian firm Vigil Systems. This highly portable system can be used for both bus or rail operator training and is currently being used by some of the largest transit systems in the world, including Los Angeles Metro, Washington DC Metro, Toronto Transit Commission and Kowloon Motor Bus in Hong Kong.

Mark Anderson, director of training operations at Los Angeles Metro, said: "The major benefit [of VigilVanguard] is the way it allows trainers to accurately capture and document data and provide feedback on the driver's ability to operate the bus".

It uses advanced GPS and

sensor technology to accurately measure behaviours such as acceleration, braking, cornering, and following distances. The sensor system incorporates four video cameras which monitor the vehicle, the driver, surrounding traffic, and other factors. The system incorporates all these dynamic inputs onto a tablet computer which provides a moment-by-moment playback of the drive. Significant areas of driver performance can be isolated, reviewed and analyzed so that the root cause of errors can be addressed.

VigilVanguard is an ideal adult learning tool because the system provides an unbiased assessment of driving behaviour. "It isn't someone else telling them what they are or are not doing; it is them observing for themselves what they are or are not doing. Without awareness of a behaviour, you cannot change it," says Mark Andrews, senior bus instructor at Orange County Transportation in the US. VigilVanguard's real world capability, with accurate on-road assessments, is also contributing to its growing popularity over driving simulators. A major issue with simulators has been the question of validity, as results obtained from simulator tests may not be applicable to real world driving and are still only estimates or projected outcomes.

● For more information about the services of Vigil Systems visit www.vigilsystems.com



The Vigil Systems VigilVanguard is an alternative to a conventional driver simulator and allows driver behaviour to be analysed with corrective action then taken

If you would like details of your company's products or services to be featured in Business Back-Up, please contact Andrew Garnett, Transit, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5RD.

Tel: 0845 270 7870 Fax: 0845 270 7961 Email: ed.transit@landor.co.uk