



A NEW UK BASED SOLUTION TO MARINE AND OFFSHORE TRAINING

Facing east towards Europe, with excellent road and rail links, sits the UK's fourth largest trading estuary, the Humber.



Home to the busiest multi-purpose ports complex in the UK, its location and infrastructure have made it the natural home to some of the world's leading offshore wind energy companies and their supply chain, and the new home to Modal Training.

SKILLS SHORTAGES

Whilst the need for adequate numbers of skilled engineers to serve the offshore energy industry has often made headlines, without significant investment, the number of skilled seafarers the industry requires could also be under threat.

A recent report predicts that national and international demand for UK deck and engineering officers could rise to over 4000 in the next seven years; and to close the gap, the annual intake of UK officer trainees needs to more than double.*

Adequate training provision is obviously necessary to address this shortage, which is why the industry is calling on Government to double seafarer training funding from £15m to £30m.

But despite this call for an increase in funding, and the importance of the Humber region to the UK's trading success and energy security, the training provision for the offshore and maritime sectors has not kept pace, until now.

A NEW OPTION FOR MARINE SIMULATOR BASED TRAINING IN THE UK

Within throwing distance of the port of Immingham, Modal Training is a new world-class training facility serving the ports, energy and logistics sectors.

Ann Newlove, new Business Manager at Modal Training, who is in charge of the centre said:

"Given the lack of availability of this type of training, we have already had extensive interest from companies across the UK and internationally as well as new and established local businesses, and individuals.

"We listened to leading companies from across the maritime, offshore and renewables industries, and invested heavily to create a centre that had the right facilities to meet their training requirements. KONGSBERG and OSC are global leaders in this type of technology, and the feedback we have had so far on our simulators from industry has been fantastic.

"We are now busy finalising our delivery offer, but we want to let industry know that we are open for business."

BENEFITS OF SIMULATOR TRAINING

Functional skills, problem solving ability and the communication and interpersonal skills required for complex team tasks can all be improved through simulator based training.

Not only does it assist learners, but companies benefit through reduced risks to people and property as well as the decreased productivity and increased running costs that arise when machinery needs to be taken out of operation for training to take place.

Of particular interest to the offshore wind sector will be Modal Training's extensive range of marine simulators. These include a KONGSBERG full mission K-Sim Class A Offshore Vessel Simulator and full mission K-Sim Engine simulator including High Voltage functionality.

As well as providing the opportunity to acquire basic skills and learn standard operating procedures in an efficient, convenient and cost effective way, Modal Training instructors are able to programme the marine simulators with bespoke exercises that test individual responses and team work. Each part of the simulator system can be operated independently, or connected to allow companies to train crews in a range of specific emergency scenarios or broader

bridge resource management. CCTV play back is also available to further enhance the learning experience.

Real life incidents, including a full range of environmental factors, can be recreated for companies looking to carry out accident investigation or incident management.

The facilities are already available to hire for companies wishing to carry out training to their own standards. A number of awareness and unaccredited courses are also available, which will be joined by an expanding range of accredited training very shortly.

In addition to its maritime and offshore provision, Modal Training offers courses or specialist training facilities for the ports, road, crane and logistics sectors. Jointly funded by the Grimsby Institute and the Humber LEP, as part of the Humber Growth Deal, Modal Training is located in a purpose-designed 5,696m² facility.

For further information, visit www.modaltraining.co.uk

* The UK Seafarer Projections Report, undertaken by Oxford Economics, predicts that national and international demand for UK deck and engineer officers could rise to as much as 4400 by 2024. To close the gap the report suggests that the annual intake of UK officer trainees needs to rise from 645 a year to more than 1500.

“INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR UK DECK AND ENGINEERING OFFICERS COULD RISE TO OVER 4000”

Simulator training opportunities for offshore crane operators haven't been neglected either. Modal Training has worked with Norwegian based OSC to provide two full mission crane simulators built inside 4m diameter domes; which as well as providing ship-to-shore, gantry crane and rig crane options can also be configured for offshore crane operations. The centre also has 6 desktop based crane simulators. These facilities are currently for hire by companies wishing to carry out their own training.