

Vortex Crane Simulator Investment by IUOE Local to Provide Unique Skills Training for Mobile Crane Operators

The Vortex Crane Simulator delivers a cost-effective solution that leads to improved operator skills, reduced equipment costs and greener heavy-equipment training.

April 16, 2010, Montreal, Canada – [CMLabs](#), the training-solution company for heavy equipment operation, announced today the acquisition of a Vortex Crane Simulator by the Montana Operating Engineers (MTOE), affiliated with Local 400 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). MTOE will add to their existing crane training program by providing simulation-based training for union members, helping them acquire important and comprehensive skills, which will result in more experienced operators and safer working conditions. As well, the Vortex simulator allows students to gain easy access to realistic machine training without the cost and environmental impact of operating actual heavy equipment.

With the Vortex Crane Simulator, IUOE apprentices and operators will learn how to use the equipment in increasingly challenging training exercises. High-resolution virtual worksites, realistic crane and load dynamics, authentic crane controls and challenging heavy-lift exercises provide students with rich operational experience. To accelerate learning, exercises feature navigation aids, performance metrics, and a playback review mode for team evaluation purposes. Instructors can introduce equipment failures, difficult weather conditions and other challenges to teach students to properly and safely react to situations that may arise on a worksite.

"We are eager to provide simulation-based training to our members, so we are pleased to be working with the Vortex team," said Quinton Farr, Director of Training, Montana Operating Engineers Apprenticeship and Training. "The Vortex Crane Simulator provides the benefits we targeted for our crane operator program: to bring our training into the 21st century, to increase operator safety, to green the program, and to do all this as cost-effectively as possible."

"MTOE and the IUOE Local 400 have made an excellent choice with the Vortex Crane Simulator," stated Arnold Free, VP Business Development at CMLabs. "It represents the next generation of effective, safe and environmentally friendly training solutions for the heavy equipment industry. Our simulator provides the IUOE with a fully featured training environment that will have immediate advantages for their program and crane operators. As well, the simulator's portability will allow the Local to take it to career fairs and other venues to promote the IUOE's training program and safe crane operations."

Vortex Crane Simulator Highlights

- **Practical and in-depth work exercises:** Includes typical mobile crane operations such as hook management, load handling, operating around structures, pipe handling, concrete bucket manipulation, tower crane erection and disassembly, and window cleaning.
- **Promotes skills acquisition:** Many features enhance learning, including performance indicators, navigation aids, safe response to faults, and scenario playback review.
- **Immersive training environment:** Features wide-screen HD display, actual crane levers, pedals, and Load Moment Indicator (LMI) to prepare students for real work conditions.
- **Realistic crane mechanics:** Accurately simulates dynamic behaviour of the crane and hoisting systems, outrigger usage, the back drive from the load, and engine power performance under varying loads.
- **Flexible Instructor's Station:** Allows trainers to monitor and evaluate student performances, introduce faults and equipment failures, signal operations, and manage the simulator environment.



Images show a beginner Vortex Crane Simulator training exercise for developing boom and hook skills, and an advanced exercise showing pipe-handling tasks.

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 Montana Operating Engineers Local 400 and the IUOE

Montana Operating Engineers Local 400 of the International Union of Operating Engineers represents crane and heavy equipment operators in Montana's construction industry. Their offices and training facility is located in East Helena, Montana. The IUOE is a progressive, diversified trade union that primarily represents operating engineers, who work as heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and surveyors in the construction industry. Founded in 1896, IUOE today has over 400,000 members in 138 local unions throughout the United States and Canada. Over 100 state-of-the-art training and apprenticeship programs ensure that IUOE members are the safest, most productive, highly skilled craft workers.

To learn more about the IUOE, visit www.iuoe.org.