

World's first 'Offshore Diving Supervisor Training Simulator' to be launched in Australia

Melbourne Thursday, October 28, 2010: **The Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) AU\$1.4M Diving Supervisor Training Simulator Project is expected to create a world first for the commercial diving industry by adapting existing airline, and maritime simulator concepts specifically for the diving environment.**

The construction of two purpose-built offshore diving supervisor training simulators are now complete and are due to be launched next month at The Underwater Centre Fremantle (TUCF) in Western Australia.

ADAS Executive Director, Paul Butler said: *"The Diving Supervisor Training Simulators offer a new approach to the way that we undertake this critical aspect of diver management. ADAS has for a long time believed the diving supervisor are the key to the management of risk in diving operations and we have put a lot of effort into developing our supervisor training concepts over the last 10 years."*

Commercial diving is big business, and when a diver's career is in jeopardy as the result of an accident both the diver and the employer suffer. When accidents do happen, it is almost invariably the result of poor or unskilled supervision. This can be both unnerving for other employee's and can cause considerable damage to an employers reputation – not to mention their bank balance in the case of a law suit.

"The Simulators are therefore expected to have a significant impact on the industry," Butler says. *"Currently, commercial divers are at increased risk because the quality of supervisor training is severely limited by the cost and practical difficulties of providing realistic operational diving scenarios in an accessible, safe and controlled training environment. These simulators will provide a cost effective way to deliver training and provide experience that can't be gained 'on the job'."*

CKAS Mechatronics in Melbourne, Australia has manufactured the fully portable simulator units, and Active Learning Partners have configured the scenarios and learning management system. They are housed in purpose-built 20' shipping containers, which are capable of transport by sea, rail or road. Each container houses an offshore air and bell diving control panel and a dedicated instructor's station.

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The system is designed to provide trainee supervisors with a realistic learning environment and provide the opportunity to simulate all the emergencies that may occur in the real environment, without a diver ever getting wet.

The Diving Supervisor Training Simulator will do it all - alarms, gas analysis, diver depths, calculate gas consumption rates and manipulate gauges accordingly, simulate and regulate gas flow rates, simulate the diver video as well as all offshore communication systems.

The project has been co-funded by the Australian Government, following a successful application by ADAS through the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund (TLCF) for Vocational Education and Training (VET), and the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme.

ADAS Project Manager, Rob Gatt, who managed the Simulator project said: *"We are very excited about the completion of the Simulators. We see it as another step towards making the commercial diving environment a safer place to work."*

ABOUT ADAS – www.adas.org.au

The Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) is the Australian national occupational diver certification scheme. It was developed by the Australian Government as a not-for-profit diver training and accreditation scheme operating at the level of world best practice. It is administered on a cost-recovery basis by the ADAS Board under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

ADAS is a member of the International Diving Regulators' Forum and has formal recognition arrangements with a number of countries that ensure that the ADAS Certificate of Competency is recognised as equivalent to the national diving qualifications of that country. This ensures that occupational diving may be undertaken in that country's jurisdiction on the ADAS certificate or by automatic cross-over to the national certification.

ABOUT CKAS Mechatronics - www.ckas.com.au

Based in Melbourne, Australia, CKAS Mechatronics specialises in Robotics Design Engineering, including all aspects of engineering design with particular focus on Mechatronic or "Smart" systems development. They have produced simulators for wide range of clients in Australia and overseas, including flight simulators, driving simulators and industrial simulators.

ABOUT Active Learning Partners – www.activelearning.com.au

Established in June 2000 in Melbourne, Active Learning Partners has had a long association with ADAS over the last 10 years in qualification development, the flagship Dive Project Manager course, funding applications, e-learning project management and the simulator training system configuration.

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