VR-system for Procedural Training and Simulation of Safety Critical Operations in Relation to Refuelling at Leningrad NPP



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# **Project Basis**

- Institute for Energy Technology (IFE) collaborating with
  - Russian Research Centre Kurchatov Institute (RRC KI)
  - Leningrad Nuclear Power Plant (LNPP)
- Part of the Norwegian governments program for increasing nuclear safety in Eastern Europe
  - Currently the 3<sup>rd</sup> project at LNPP since 1999
  - Started in May 2003 and finished as scheduled in December 2004









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# **Project Objectives**

- 1) Improve safety at LNPP by more effective training
  - a) The refuelling operation done using the refuelling machine
    - Using a simulator system
  - b) The safety critical maintenance procedures on the refuelling machine
    - Using a procedural training system
- 2) Enhance the qualifications of LNPP personnel
  - The operation and maintenance of the refuelling machine
  - Training methods and technology for training
- 3) Introduce new LNPP employees and visitors to the refuelling machine





# **The Scenarios to Train**

#### a) The refuelling operation



#### b) The maintenance procedure



- Refuelling done by the refuelling operators
- Close cooperation with reactor operators
- Done by the maintenance workers



# **Effective Training**

- General requirements of effective training
  - Familiarise the trainee with procedures, equipment, safety concerns etc.
  - Training must
    - Involve the trainee by requiring active interaction
    - Give proper feedback to the trainee
    - Be sufficiently realistic making it possible to transfer the training to the actual work environment



Real world

3D computer model





# **The Training Program Outline**

- Objectives met by using Virtual Reality (VR) technology for training:
  - Uses a virtual environment instead of the real world as training environment
    - Possible to train without risk to personnel or equipment
    - Allow training on situations difficult to train in real life
    - Visualising the invisible giving a better view of scenarios than in reality
    - Interactive training being more efficient than traditional training
  - Advanced, but low cost training system using off-the-shelf PCs and software
    - Easy to maintain and extend
  - Installed at the Technical Training Centre at LNPP
  - Transfer of knowledge from IFE about training systems and training
- Two training systems based on the same VR technology
  - 1) The refuelling operation simulator
  - 2) The procedural training system





# **Snap shots of the Refuelling Operation Simulator**





### **Contents of the Procedure Training System**

• User groups based on HRP research in training systems:





#### Instructor

Defines training sessions in the session management tool based on VR model and scenario

#### **VR Engineer**

Builds VR model and scenario preparing the training system for instructor

#### Trainee

Undergoes training using the VR model and the sessions defined by the instructor

- Types of training:
  - Introductory training for new employees and visitors
  - Procedural training where the trainee works alone
  - Instructor-led training e.g. in a classroom



# The Procedure Training System Overview





### **Snap shorts of the Procedure Training System**





# Summary

- Improved safety at LNPP by more effective training
  - Advanced refuelling operation simulator in use today at LNPP
  - Advanced training system for procedural training finished in December 2004
  - VR technology used in both training systems gives realistic and efficient training
- The future
  - The Norwegian government will support yet another period 2005-2006
    - Focus on enhancing the procedure training system with new functions and scenarios
  - Rosenergoatom supports further use of VR systems in training at Russian NPP
    - Plans to deploy the refuelling operation simulator to Smolensk and Kursk NPP 2006-2008



