THE BULGARIAN NAVAL ACADEMY ACQUIRES VSTEP SIMULATORS

Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (NVNA) in Varna, Bulgaria, has opened a new simulation centre, the Centre for Integrated Management and Monitoring of the Coastal Zone, and has contracted the Dutch company, VSTEP, for the supply and delivery of several NAUTIS simulators.

It was reported recently that on 6 August the official opening ceremony for The Centre for Integrated Management and Monitoring of the Coastal Zone was inaugurated by Boyko Borisov, the Prime Minister of Bulgaria took place.

At the opening ceremony were present the Rector of the Academy, Commodore Professor DSc Boyan Mednikarov and Deputy Chief of Educational and Scientific Activities, Captain Professor Dr Kalin Kalinov. Among the official guests were parliament members from the Bulgarian government, representatives of other Bulgarian authorities, members of the military, ambassadors and representatives of the maritime industry.

Following the delivery of a NAUTIS Class A full mission bridge simulator (FMBS) and a RescueSim incident command simulator in 2014, the Bulgarian Naval Academy selected VSTEP to deliver and install a liquid cargo handling simulator, a two NAUTIS DNV Class A full mission bridge simulators with 240° and 180° field of view respectively. Each has an instructor station.

In addition to the DP and FMBS, two NAUTIS DNV Class C Desktop Simulators and two NAUTIS Class C DP Simulators were purchased for training of Naval and Merchant Marine students.

Apart from the simulators, VSTEP also developed an innovative tool called Live Data Module (LDM) to visualise the movements of ships in real time taken from AIS or incidents encountered such as oil spill, man overboard (MOB) or weather sensor-delivered information provided to the simulator. With this tool, operators can appreciate bridge activities with realistic port and coastal 3D modelling. This virtual bridge view in the simulator can assist VTS operators to better assist ships approaching the port, or ships that may be standing into danger or on a collision course.

Pjotr van Schothorst, CEO of VSTEP commented: ‘It was a delight to see this brand new high-tech simulation centre with some of our latest products inside the beautiful old building of the Naval Academy of Varna. It shows the clear
vision and dedication of the Commodore and Vice-Commodore in the area of modern Coastal Zone Monitoring Operations and Maritime Training.’

Commodore Professor DSc Boyan Kirilov Mednikarov, Rector of Nikola Vaptsarav Naval Academy added: ‘Nowadays we provide education and training to national and international students, naval cadets, and we provide post-graduate training abroad too.

‘We are very satisfied with the latest delivery of cutting edge NAUTIS simulators and our existing partnership with VSTEP B.V. This allows us to implement in our education and training the latest technologies in maritime simulation. With this cooperation and the recently delivered simulation complex we are about to sign a framework agreement for establishing a “Joint Developer Centre” at NVNA.

‘Both parties will jointly develop front end technologies like next generation marine simulators with augmented reality training, CIC interfaces, maritime drone control and training and so forth. We expect this cooperation to boost both NVNA and VSTEP to jump into the next generation of education and training of maritime specialists.’

About Nikola Vaptsarav Naval Academy (NVNA)
The Nikola Vaptsarav Naval Academy is a well-known historic technical and maritime educational institution in Bulgaria, established in 1881. With its illustrious history and traditions in training sea specialists, it is one of the symbols of Varna and Bulgaria in the world maritime community. At present, the Academy trains specialists for both Navy and merchant marine in all areas of maritime life. See also: www.naval-acad.bg

About VSTEP
Rotterdam-based VSTEP is an ISO 9001:2008 certified developer of simulators. VSTEP develops and supplies simulator solutions for the civilian and military maritime industry (NAUTIS), virtual incident command simulators for first responders (RescueSim), simulators to prepare camera operators to identify suspect human behaviour before a crime or terrorist attack (EyeObserve) and Crowd Control Simulators that provide police commanders and training managers with an effective training tool for crowd-related incidents. See also www.vstepsimulation.com