

## **UAE Naval Training Centre VSTEP to provide bridge simulators**

It was announced from The Netherlands on 24 October that the Rotterdam-based VSTEP has been awarded a contract from CAE to provide a suite of custom-built ship bridge simulators for the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Naval Training Centre (*see illustrations*).

### **UAE Naval Training Centre**

In mid-2016 global training provider CAE was awarded a contract by the General Headquarters (GHQ) of the UAE Armed Forces to design and develop a comprehensive Naval Training Centre (NTC) for the UAE Navy.

Serving as the prime contractor and training systems integrator, CAE is developing the UAE NTC to support the training of individual, team, whole ship, and joint/collective mission training for the UAE Armed Forces. The purpose-built NTC facility will feature a range of integrated ship simulation-based training suites as well as maritime aircraft sensor stations that will be used to deliver training for individuals, command teams, and whole ship crews.

In addition, the overall naval training system for the UAE Navy is being designed for networking and interoperability to enable distributed multi-platform and joint mission training.

### **Adaptive Ship Bridge Simulators**

VSTEP was selected to provide the Full Mission Bridge Simulators after an extensive evaluation process. The visual quality, the hydrodynamic fidelity and extendibility of VSTEP's new NAUTIS 3 simulation platform were important criteria. Some of the bridge simulators will be reconfigurable for the different vessels of the UAE Navy to allow for vessel-specific training capabilities.

It is understood that all simulators can be used individually, or in combination for joint mission exercises. Further, that the bridge simulators will leverage the Open Geospatial Consortium's Common Database (OGC CDB) for high-fidelity synthetic environments, as well as data interfaces to industry-standard networking protocols such as the High-Level Architecture (HLA) for integration with other training devices, including CAE's Naval Combat System Simulators and Engine Room Simulators.

Pjotr van Schothorst, VSTEP's co-founder and CEO commented: *'This is a major strategic win for VSTEP and clearly demonstrates our capabilities to provide adaptive and fully integrated simulators in the Defence industry. CAE's choice of VSTEP as their provider of ship bridge simulators for the UAE Naval*

*Training Centre proves that our new simulation platform NAUTIS 3, which we are about to introduce on the market, has the quality and flexibility required for the training needs of the most demanding clients.'*

The UAE Naval Training Centre will be located in Taweelah with connectivity to several other naval and air bases throughout the UAE. The UAE NTC is expected to be complete and ready-for-training in 2019.

In the words of Ian Bell, CAE's Vice President and General Manager, Middle East/Asia-Pacific: *'The UAE Naval Training Centre programme is a clear example of CAE's training systems integration capabilities. We are pleased to select VSTEP as the provider of bridge simulators that will play a key role in the overall naval training enterprise that will help the UAE Navy achieve a high level of fleet operational readiness.'*

### **About VSTEP**

VSTEP is an ISO 9001:2008 certified developer of simulators and virtual training software. The company is renowned throughout the maritime industry for its suite of advanced DNV-certified simulators (NAUTIS), which facilitate training in compliance with all design criteria, class and IMO requirements.

RescueSim is an incident command simulator for safety and security professionals, which allows training in a realistic environment, without the dangers, costs and time associated with traditional training.

Headquartered in the business heart of Rotterdam in The Netherlands, VSTEP continues to innovate with professional, accurate and groundbreaking new simulation technology and sets the standard for innovative, effective high-quality simulation.