

Xstrata Coal and Immersive Technologies Collaborate for the Environment, Health and Safety

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Xstrata Coal's best-practice dust management employed at open cut coal mines in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales has now been extended to equipment operator training thanks to state-of-the-art training simulators from Immersive Technologies.

One of the largest operators of export coal mines in the region, Xstrata Coal NSW maintains a strong focus on its responsibilities to meet strict statutory dust emission limits at its open pit and underground operations in the Hunter Valley.

Measures adopted range from haul road watering and dust suppression sprays on coal stockpiles, to planting temporary cover crops on exposed areas and suspending operations in difficult weather conditions.

A host of other measures are in place, including widespread installation of real-time dust monitoring devices and use of advanced dust suppressant products on haul roads.

Xstrata Coal NSW Training Manager, Darryl Cooper, said: "The idea of employing our advanced equipment operator training simulators to educate staff on actions that can reduce dust emissions to acceptable levels was explored and then implemented, with excellent results so far.

"Working with simulator supplier Immersive Technologies, we have adopted industry leading practices for integrating simulation technology into our group operations training program. We have made a significant investment in a fleet of PRO3 simulators and a dedicated, skilled team of trainers and coordinators to deliver sustainable results.

This has been achieved in the second year of implementation, and is now being leveraged with quality feedback and collaboration with our supplier of simulation technology, leading to these new development initiatives." said Cooper.

"Our ongoing commitment to environmental management and workforce safety compliance is evident in our annual operator competency assessment of all mobile equipment operators.

"They must achieve full compliance, which includes an emergency response assessment check."

Immersive Technologies worked closely with Xstrata Coal NSW on the development of new features for the latest version of SimControl, the software at the heart of the PRO3 Advanced Equipment Simulator. The enhancements resulting from this collaboration specifically target dust level monitoring and control.

In targeted scenarios in the simulation training program, an equipment operator observes dust levels from 'drone trucks' in front



Simulating the Caterpillar® 797F Mining truck

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of the operator's machine, and must take appropriate action. The actions taken by the operator are automatically monitored and assessed, with real-time feedback and debriefing or reporting after the training.

Another scenario simulates excavator dust generation during dumping. Operators are given instruction and then assessed on their technique in maintaining the correct dumping height to produce the least amount of dust from the truck tray being loaded. The higher the operator rolls out the bucket, the more dust is generated.

Immersive Technologies Regional Business Development Manager, Phillip McBride, said "Improvements developed in consultation with Xstrata Coal have now been released in SimControl 4.4, which is a software upgrade distributed to Immersive Technologies customers under service agreements."

"This new functionality quantifies equipment operator risk associated with negative environmental behaviors and facilitates rectification of the negative behaviors," said McBride.

Immersive Technologies will be exhibiting their state-of-the-art operator training technologies along with a number of complementary products and technologies new to the mining industry later this year at MINExpo, September 24 to 26, at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

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About Immersive Technologies

Immersive Technologies is the world's largest, proven and tested supplier of surface and underground mining equipment simulators to the global mining industry.

The company has achieved this unique position by focusing on its mission to make every mining and earthmoving equipment operator in the world safer and their employer more profitable through its simulation technologies. Immersive Technologies' Advanced Equipment Simulators are helping hundreds of mining companies around the world to increase their equipment operators' safety and site profitability through effective simulation training.

Immersive Technologies' provides its customers with the most effective mining equipment simulators available. This is made possible through the formal exclusive licensing and technical information alliances Immersive has established with the leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), including: Caterpillar, Hitachi, Komatsu, Liebherr and P&H Mining Equipment. These unique alliances provide Immersive Technologies with exclusive access to the OEM's proprietary and confidential machine technical information that is required to correctly simulate the OEM's machines and is not available through other public, or dealer channels.

With advanced simulators modules deployed in 32 countries, Immersive Technologies is dedicated to provide outstanding service. To deliver on this commitment the company has customer sales and support offices located close to its customers in Perth and Brisbane Australia, Salt Lake City USA, Calgary and Ottawa Canada, Monterrey Mexico, Lima Peru, Santiago Chile, Bochum Germany, Johannesburg South Africa, Jakarta Indonesia and Kolkata India.

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Advanced Equipment Simulators

Immersive has the global mining experience, innovative technology, product range, OEM relationships, proven support commitment and industry vision to partner with you to ensure your simulator training solution delivers the significant results you expect.

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