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VDAB in Belgium expands operational specific training capabilities with new KONGSBERG dredging simulator



Illustration: The customized dredging simulator delivered by Kongsberg Digital will facilitate realistic training at VDAB for new and seasoned crew building competence for safer and more efficient dredging operations.

Asker, May 9th, 2019 – VDAB, the Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training, has chosen a unique dredging simulator developed by KONGSBERG on its state-of-the-art K-Sim Navigation technology platform. Selected during a multi-million Euro public tender initiated in September 2018 with the contract signed this April, the system will be installed at VDAB's training facility in Zeebrugge, Belgium, where new and experienced vessel crew will take part in the most realistic dredging training exercises available.

VDAB's new capabilities will enable safer dredging by further building crew competence, while also providing a platform to focus on more cost-effective operations. The K-Sim simulator gives students a deep understanding of the forces applied on a dredging vessel during operations in diverse external conditions, i.e., when releasing or hauling dredge pipes, and the resulting behaviours under various loading conditions.

It joins two existing DNV-GL Class B bridges and 6 Part-task bridges and the recently awarded full mission K-Sim Fishery simulator at the VDAB facility. Due in two phases with completion in Summer 2020, the delivery encompasses a DNV-GL Class A compliant Full Mission K-Sim Navigation, which meets regulations for e.g., RADAR, ECDIS, and distress signal training, as well as specific requirements for dredging operations and relevant dredging equipment.

KONGSBERG will provide multiple dredging vessel models and sailing areas to ensure VDAB's ability to offer a diverse training programme for the dredging sector. A new seabed mathematical and visual model will provide the most accurate and realistic view of the

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seabed available ensuring realistic feedback on actions taken in the simulator. The simulator features an advanced instructor system, with easy exercise development and the ability to implement unexpected events and malfunctions, helping students to gain greater understanding of the dynamic nature of dredging operations.

"We are delighted to have been selected for this contract, especially following so soon after their order of a K-Sim Fishery simulator," said Harald Kluken, Area Sales Manager, Kongsberg Digital. *"This is our first complete full mission dredging simulator and we are confident that as with K-Sim Fishery in the commercial fishing sector, the dredging market will quickly see the benefits that vessel and operational specific simulator training can provide."*

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About Kongsberg Digital

Kongsberg Digital is a provider of next-generation software and digital solutions to customers within maritime, oil and gas, and renewables and utilities. The company consists of more than 500 software experts with leading competence within the internet of things, smart data, artificial intelligence, maritime simulation, automation and autonomous operations. Kongsberg Digital is one of three business areas of KONGSBERG, an international, knowledge-based group delivering high technology systems and solutions to clients within the oil and gas industry, merchant marine, defense and aerospace, renewable energy and the utility industry. KONGSBERG has 7,000 employees located in more than 25 countries and total revenues of NOK 14.5 billion in 2017. Follow us on Twitter: @kongsbergasa.

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