
MEDIA RELEASE

Mining Industry Skills Centre to exhibit training simulators at QME

The **Mining Industry Skills Centre** will showcase two of its state-of-the-art underground training simulators and a revamped Heavy Industry Generic Induction Program on **Stand 9195** during the 2008 Queensland Mining and Engineering (QME) exhibition at the Mackay Showground from July 22-24.

Established in 1996, the not-for-profit organisation is a collaborative venture between the mining industry and Queensland Government and is responsible for developing and implementing training initiatives. It receives funding from both the state and federal governments.

On display at QME will be continuous miner and longwall shearer simulators from virtual reality specialist 5DT. The simulators are part of the Skills Centre's fleet of 19 simulators which include both surface and underground equipment and offer safe, cost-effective and highly productive training.

The most recent addition to the fleet is a Komatsu 830e electric truck simulator from South African-based modelling and simulation company Thoroughtec.

"The new addition will give the resources industry access to a technically superior simulator that has never before been available in Australia," said Derek Hunter, the Skills Centre's CEO.

Meanwhile, the Heavy Industry Generic Induction Program to be featured at QME not only opens the pathway to the wider resources sector in the area of processing, but to heavy industry in general, allowing for contractors to move across sectors.

The program is designed to reduce the time and costs involved in induction training and decrease induction duplications as contractors move from site to site. According to Mr Hunter, this has benefits for both employers and contractors and also helps address the skills shortage across the industry.

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