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Rheinmetall's state-of-the-art ship handling simulator for AIDA cruise ships: realistic training for trouble-free voyages

AIDA Cruises has been relying on the latest Rheinmetall simulation technology to train its crews since late summer 2012.

Following a seven-month construction period, the well-known cruise line took delivery of the Advanced Nautical System ANS 6000 on 5 September 2012, the most sophisticated system of its kind anywhere – made by Rheinmetall's Simulation and Training business unit. It forms part of the Centre for Simulator Maritime Training (CSMART) at the AIDA Academy in Rostock. CSMART is geared to assuring high-quality initial and advanced training of nautical and technical officers, thus helping to make cruise ship operations safer.

The full mission bridge simulator consists of a main bridge with a 220-degree visualization system together with four part-task cubicles, each equipped with a 90-degree visualization capability. An exact replica of the real thing, the main bridge features the navigation components of the AIDAblu, an AIDA cruise ship in service since 2010. Rheinmetall's ANS 6000 simulation software also controls all of the integrated original NACOS navigation systems, such as the radar, ECDIS, Conning, etc. Moreover, the principal components in the part task cubicles are all original as well, thus assuring a high degree of realism.

Even highly complex manoeuvres can be depicted on the 220-degree large screen monitor system, coupled with realistic simulation of nautical influences such as sea conditions, wind, currents, various light conditions and precipitation. The simulated training environments correspond to areas frequented by AIDA cruise ships. These include the ports of Hamburg, Montreal, Singapore and St. Petersburg as well as such busy sea routes as the Straits of Dover, the Kadettrinne between Germany and Denmark, and the Bosporus.

Rheinmetall's highly realistic nautical simulation technology can be found in numerous other civilian settings. The World Maritime University in Malmö and, among others, the universities of Bremen and Warnemünde and the Maritime Training Centre in Hamburg all depend on Rheinmetall's comprehensive simulation expertise to prepare crewmembers for shipboard tasks.

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