



MEDIA RELEASE

1 February 2011

CRC FOR RAIL INNOVATION & UniSA LAUNCH NEW TRAIN SIMULATION LABORATORY

Ground breaking research by The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Rail Innovation research will allow the rail industry to develop enhanced understanding of driver training methodologies that support safety and improve training effectiveness. On Wednesday 2 February 2010, in collaboration with the University of South Australia (UniSA), the CRC will officially launch a cutting edge Train Simulation Laboratory for use in exciting human factors rail research projects in driver training.

Replicating a full driver cabin, the Train Simulation Laboratory will collect human performance data for freight and passenger operations, using real-world track scenarios under day or night-time conditions. In addition, cameras and eye-tracking equipment inside the simulator laboratory cab will allow analysis of driver response to fatigue, situation awareness and other key issues of human factors concern.

David George, CEO of the CRC for Rail Innovation, said "The new train simulation laboratory will allow the Industry to develop new approaches to training that supports safety, is geared towards effective training of new drivers, and maintains the skills of experienced drivers."

"Training is a significant expense for most rail organisations and given the ageing driver population and foreseeable increases in driver turnover, this is set to grow in importance," said Mr George.

"The new Train Simulation Laboratory will help the CRC for Rail Innovation carry out research in driver training that improves driver competency as well as reducing the time and cost of training," said Mr George. "The processes by which train drivers currently acquire route knowledge and driving strategies will be a critical component of the research".

The laboratory will be an integral part of a number of CRC for Rail Innovation research projects. The laboratory will also be available to the Rail industry on a commercial basis as a resource for driver training studies.

The CRC for Rail Innovation is a collaborative venture between Rail Industry organisations and Australian universities, with Commonwealth Government support.

More than \$100M is being invested in a seven year rail research program that will produce solutions for rail's most pressing challenges including Climate Change and the Environment, Safety and Security, Performance, Smart Technologies, Urban Rail Access, Workforce Development and Adoption and Commercialisation of the CRC for Rail Innovation's activities.

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Contact Emma Pettiford, Communications Manager to attend: epettiford@ara.net.au or 0438 209 588.

Venue: Level 7, Room P7-39
Playford Building, City East Campus
University of South Australia
North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000

Date: Wednesday 2 February 2011

Time: 17.00 to 18.30
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