



PRESS RELEASE

September 2010

Collaboration NASA and the Norwegian Energy Industry – Part II

Since June, SIMTANO® (1), has worked with ARENA IO (2) to actively develop closer ties between NASA and the Norwegian Energy Industry. This included investigating the potential for collaboration with the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) (3) and inviting NASA/JPL (4) representatives to Stavanger, Norway. SIMTANO and ARENA IO have also carefully followed-up the Seabed Rig – SBR (5) – NASA/JPL collaboration effort.

The Norwegian Government through Innovation Norway (6) provided funding for the project. For background information, please, see the SIMTANO® May Press Release (7).

Already in July, SIMTANO had meetings at NASA JSC. Focus here was on the human space flight program. The following areas for potential collaboration were indentified: safety, continuous risk management, simulations, training, and decision-making during critical operations.

In August, NASA/JPL and SIMTANO representatives came to Stavanger to be part of the program around the Offshore Northern Seas – ONS (8) 2010 Conference and Exhibition.

Both representatives spoke at the Technology Transfer Space and Energy Conference, organized by ARENA IO and Greater Stavanger (9), and together with ARENA IO met with selected high-tech energy companies and research organizations in the Stavanger/Sandnes region: Ullrigg (10), IRIS (11), Badger Explorer (12), Seabed Rig, Innova (13), Oceaneering (14).

The objective of these meetings was to show what technology capabilities Norway and the region have to offer, and discuss potential areas of collaboration. The response was tremendous.

And, there is more. As part of the ONS2010, there was, for the first time, a special Space and Energy pavilion and mini-conference. A new Space and Energy Network has been formed (15), and one of the leading Petroleum publications, PetroNews (16) dedicated a 2 page Chronicle (17) to Space and Energy Collaboration in their special ONS2010 issue. One can be tempted to say that the Stavanger/Sandnes region is becoming a "hotbed" for Space and Energy initiatives.

As for the SBR - NASA/JPL collaboration project; the Space Act Agreement "Abstract" was sent to NASA HQ September 27, and the plan is for the project to start at the end of this year. Hopefully this will be the first of many. Maybe one day, we'll see a "Robonaut II" type collaboration taking place between the space and energy industries.

Stay tuned. We'll keep you posted!

For questions, please contact Dr. Knut I. Oxnevad directly at oxnevad@simtano.com or via tel: 818-943-7917. References are provided on the next page.

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References:

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