



Iraqi Grid Simulator In Debut Training Session

System Operators trained in a weeklong session using the Iraqi Grid Simulator. The course topics ranged from power fundamentals to advanced system restoration and preventative measures. The course was hosted by US - based Incremental Systems Corp under sponsorship of US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region Division (GRD) in contract with SOS Intl.

Baghdad, Iraq. January 28th, 2008– This week initiated the first training session with a Grid Simulator for the system operators and engineers of the Republic of Iraq Ministry of Electricity. Operators and engineers engaged in a training session using the PowerSimulator Operator Training Simulator to help prepare them for both emergency operations and daily tasks.

System operators and engineers from around the country met with a training staff from Incremental Systems Corporation based in Seattle, US. Iraq Ministry of Electricity and USACE officials arranged the training as a response to the need for Iraqi nationals to gain experience in maintaining system reliability despite difficult operating circumstances. Operators received standup lectures, computer-based tutorials, and engaged in simulation training. The Baghdad School House hosted the event and was itself just recently built. It will host other training for electrical industry professionals. Similar simulator based sites in other locations are planned by the MOE and Gulf Region Division.

“We showed them how to handle emergency situations, how to prevent cascading outages when the system is under attack, and also how to restore the system more quickly should it blackout”, noted Robin Podmore, Head Trainer and President of Incremental Systems Corporation representing SOS Intl.

The Emergency Operations with PowerSimulator (EOPS) curriculum covered a range of topics from grid fundamentals to recognition of system conditions when it separated into islands and the proper responses to multiple contingencies. Simulation training involved both an individual mode with practice on a generic power system as well as a team mode in which the engineers and operators practiced communications between control centers.

On a daily basis, the Iraqi system operators manage the flow of power from generation facilities to households and businesses in their service territory. This job has become increasingly stressful with conditions that can include insurgents targeting vital transmission facilities and system restoration from complete blackout. The Iraqi system operator faces obstacles on a daily basis that their counterparts around the world would consider a nightmare and unique lifetime events.

Simulation training for emergencies is a crucial part of safe and reliable supply of power to the country, a critical part of improving the stability of the region.

PowerSimulator was built in a cooperative effort involving the Intellectual Property of Incremental Systems Corporation, PowerData Corporation, SOS Intl and EPRI. On-line tutorials and simulator exercises were authored and built by Incremental Systems and SOS Intl.