

Making modeling and simulation work

Following much hard work by Chair Stephane Albert and Co-Chair Andrew Vallerand, January 22, 2003 saw the launch of the Canadian chapter of SISO (Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization, based in the United States).

Modelling and Simulation (M&S) has been familiar for many years in the aerospace industries – design, development and training – but advances in computer technology have allowed the creation of better models and simulations of reality. M&S has the potential to reduce development time, risks, costs and implementation issues for a variety of concerns from acquisition planning and execution, training, environmental studies, emergency services response to strategic planning and policy development.

The new chapter wants to promote the development of standards to increase the interoperability and R&D of M&S and its use in Canada. Virginia Poter, at the Department of National Defence, is looking for the improvements in interoperability of M&S to help the acquisition process provide faster service and deliver better quality to those in the field. SISO Canada will promote Canadian expertise internationally and develop a network of communication and cooperation between government, industry and academia. Information can be found at www.sisostds.org/sisocanada, and *Summit* will bring you more on M&S in its Spring *Focus on IT* issue. —Anne Phillips

Training supply chain professionals

Recognizing that formal training and professional designations are key to the evolution of supply chain management (SCM), Calgary's Mount Royal College and Ottawa's Algonquin College this September join Edmonton's Grant McEwan College in educating a new generation of SCM professionals.

"Globalization + e-business + international competition + technological change equal a new business model for the 21st century, with new relationships," says Elsie Elford, business dean at McEwan, which launched its four-year applied degree in 2000. The catalyst is "technology – the Internet, all sorts of intranets, secure extranets," agrees Algonquin program coordinator Geoff Mace. "Then you're placing more focus on all of the supplier-customer processes, internal and external, and taking a customer focus."

Mount Royal credits globalization and its own international focus with spawning its SCM applied degree. "Industry is looking for individuals who understand the supply chain," Dean of Business Wendelin Fraser says. "A company has to evaluate the cost and benefits of getting a product produced in any given country. They need to understand Canadian and US markets in an international context. Within 10 years there will be 50,000 people working in the supply chain in Calgary alone."

Each college has had to build its curriculum from Year 1 to satisfy government regulators. Mace appreciates that Ontario Ministry of Education procedures demanded such detailed planning that meeting the criteria in effect designed Algonquin's program.