



**Sant'Anna**  
School of Advanced Studies – Pisa

## PRESS RELEASE

### Editor in Chief – Rector's Staff

Dr. Francesco Ceccarelli  
Tel. +39 050 883378 Cell +39 348 7703786  
Piazza Martiri della Libertà 33 - 56127 Pisa  
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies  
<http://www.santannapisa.it/en>  
Latest news <http://www.santannapisa.it/en/santanna-magazine>  
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Twitter @SantAnnaPisa

### Enel Media Relations

T +39 06 8305 5699  
F +39 06 8305 3771  
[ufficiostampa@enel.com](mailto:ufficiostampa@enel.com)

[enel.com](http://enel.com)

## ENEL AND SANT'ANNA SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES DEVELOP A 3D VIRTUAL REALITY SIMULATOR FOR TRAINING PERSONNEL

- *The system makes it possible to simulate situations and scenarios to train personnel in safety and the operation and maintenance of generation plants*

**Rome, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017** - A 3D virtual reality training simulator has been developed through collaboration between Enel, the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa and its spin-off company VR Media to be used to train personnel in safety and the operation and maintenance of generation plants. The virtual reality platform is capable of creating an environment which reproduces the same sensations of a real-life scenario in which, using devices such as headsets and controllers, trainees can interact and carry out operations.

The simulator allows staff undergoing training to apply procedures and perform operations, giving them the ability to select the most appropriate equipment and tools for the different scenarios they face. Operators interact with a secure virtual environment, immersing themselves in complex situations with the aim of increasing their sense of responsibility and awareness of the risks associated with the execution of the individual operations.

Thanks to its flexibility, the platform permits the development of new environments and scenarios, as well as the implementation of new functions, making training processes more stimulating and effective.

The system can also be extended to other areas of Enel's business.

*"Virtual reality is a technology that continues to make inroads in many fields," remarked **Cristiana La Marca**, Head of Innovation Global Thermal Generation Enel. "The opportunity for employees to experience training scenarios in a virtual reality environment has a strong emotional impact, thanks in part to the possibility of simulating what might happen in an emergency or in more challenging situations. The value and impact of the project lies with the memory of this realistic experience."*

*"For the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, and in particular the TeCIP Institute and my research team, collaborating with Enel on the development of an immersive simulator dedicated to training is exciting not only because it enables us to contribute to safety, but also because it allows us to effectively combine the knowledge derived from years of research on the scientific and technological aspects of virtual reality with Enel's vast experience," said **Franco Tecchia**, researcher at the TeCIP Institute (Communication, Information and Perception Technologies) of the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa. "It is a truly virtuous relationship that has a continuous exchange of information, data and advice as well as being a combination of expertise and tangible results that have far-reaching implications. In the coming years I expect exponential growth in pioneering efforts like this one, with a*



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*significant increase in the use of virtual reality in industry, a revolution that has been announced numerous times, but now seems to be becoming a reality.”*

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