

Training remains a focus in tough market



Training at Site Group Philippines facility. Image courtesy of Site Group.

BY SARAH BYRNE

SITE GROUP International has signed a Training Services Agreement with Granite Services International, an affiliate of GE Power, with training commencing in January earlier this year.

Speaking with *Oil & Gas Asia*, Site Group managing director Vernon Wills said that despite the current period of depressed commodity prices, training continues to play a vital role, with an increased focus on specific high level skills required by industry.

The agreement is for the continuation of training and assessment services at Site's facility in Clark, Philippines.

This is designed to develop Granite's in-region specialist workforce around maintenance of heavy duty rotating equipment in power generation and other industrial applications.

Mr Wills said the training involves the delivery of technical programs in support of Granite personnel to be competent to perform essential duties.

"This includes theoretical knowledge and technical skills for mechanical work, safe handling, use and operation of power tools, flange integrity, gaskets, bolted connections, welding, examination and reparation works," he said.

Mr Wills said given the ongoing low commodity price environment, this training is essential to the success of businesses in the resources sector.

"The competence and capability of country nationals is essential in enhancing productivity, lowering expat-labour costs, and minimising or eliminating lost-work-time incidents and project downtimes, all of which result in a lower operating costs for projects, contractors and suppliers."

"This training becomes even more essential in a low-price environment as project owners, contractors and suppliers all look for ways to achieve cost efficiencies through operations, with supply and competency of a skilled workforce well recognised among industry as a way to reduce project costs and enhance feasibility."

Mr Wills said from a training perspective, while industry focus has always been about competency and supply of skilled labour, the emphasis is now on how these factors can result in operating cost reductions over the mid to long term.

Granite general manager for Asia Ted Toth said the agreement confirms the company's commitment to its employees and customers.

"Investments in training and skills development are part of our core belief that everyone benefits when a passionate work force

receives the best available training, especially with equipment as critical as that which we work on" Mr Toth said.

"Using Site Skills Training enables us to validate that the training programs are being learned, remembered and are relevant to developing our workforce's competencies in safety, productivity and innovation."

"The passion Granite has for the continuous improvement of its workforce and customer service aligns very closely with Site's objective of workforce nationalisation and competency focussed training aligned directly to the needs of industry," Mr Wills said.

"Leaders like Granite are the perfect industry example of utilising real environments in striving for best practice delivery for its customers."

"The highly skilled capability required around critical equipment such as turbines and rotational motors is well suited to delivery at a specialised training precinct like Site's Clark facility."

Mr Wills said the Clark facility was established to meet industry requirements as a training hub for the Asia Pacific region and continues to develop significant workforce nationalisation programs on behalf of industry operating within the Philippines, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, PNG, Malaysia and other Asia Pacific nations. ●