

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## Crystal launches simulator captain training to boost ship safety

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Crystal Mozart vessel. Image credit: Crystal

## By STAFF REPORTS

Hospitality service provider Crystal is preparing its captains for real-world steering of its vessels through a high-tech simulator.



Before Crystal's captains take the wheel of its river cruise liners, they will train and be assessed on simulators developed through a partnership between its parent company Genting Hong Kong and Netherlands-based Simwave. Leveraging what Crystal claims is the first of its kind technology for the cruise industry, the simulator is expected to increase safety for vessels by letting captains practice on dry land.

## Preparedness practice

Crystal's simulator is expected to be completed in November. The 3D model uses specifications from Crystal's vessels to more accurately recreate the handling of the ships in the virtual environment.

The simulator also replicates the bridge layout and design so that captains can get comfortable with the components and controls before boarding a ship. This includes nine vertically-mounted displays to give training captains a field of vision that is 240 degrees across and 47 degrees top to bottom.

"Due to the details in the visual scene like ropes, navigation objects, etc. it is of great importance that the sharpness and details in the visual system be high quality," said Joost van Ree, co-founder of Simwave, in a statement. "This makes it possible to simulate scenarios in complex environments more realistically."



Crystal Bach. Image credit: Crystal

To prep for manning the Crystal Mozart, which requires two captains at all times, the simulator allows for training two captains in emergency protocol.

A development captain will create curricula for the captains, which will be used during the training at the Simwave simulator center in the Netherlands.

"Crystal is committed to setting new standards of excellence in every facet of the Crystal experiences around the world, with the expertise of our captains and officers being of chief importance to the safety and security of our guests," said Edie Rodriguez, CEO and president of Crystal. "Innovation and groundbreaking technology are integral to the beautiful new river yachts joining the Crystal River Cruises' fleet, and we're thrilled to extend that innovation to the training of our officers."

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