Operator training simulators (OTS) have been established as the fastest and most effective way to train operators. It would be unthinkable to train an aircraft pilot without a flight simulator, and the same goes for training operators at facilities where operators have great responsibilities for the safety of people, equipment, environmental, product quality, and production efficiency.

Virtually all PLC and DCS suppliers now offer a virtual control system development and simulation environment that can be used to engineer and test control systems. This virtual environment is easily connected to a process simulator and is usually ideal for accurately simulating the control system algorithms, alarms, and graphical user interface.

The operator training simulators market has recovered some in the past year with slight improvement in the price of oil, which has increased OTS demand. There is an increased effort to reduce accidents and improve plant operation which has helped the operator training simulators market. The emergence of distributed renewable grid power has lowered the growth in traditional central station power OTS system due to retirement of coal and nuclear plants. Developing countries such as India, China, and other countries that are building electric infrastructure have seen growth in operator training simulators. The report shows how these new market forces are unfolding.

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Conservative end users have been slow to embrace 3D immersive training simulators for field operators, focusing more on console operator training. With so many large companies developing 3D virtual and augmented reality software and hardware, suppliers believe it is not a question of IF, but WHEN they will catch on. So how can suppliers increase their value proposition?

- Are different strategies required for different industries?
- Will the popular digital twin concept help keep OTS simulation maintained for the life of the plant?
- How critical is initial cost in relation to lifecycle cost?

This research is available as a Market Intelligence Workbook (Excel) and/or a concise, executive-level Market Analysis Report (PDF), with or without detailed charts.