From Schenectady to Timbuktu

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After 16 international flight hours – including one leg with just three passengers onboard a tiny commercial airplane, two layovers, and a Customs and Immigration shuffle – I landed in Fort McMurray, Canada where the temperature was minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, twice as cold as the temperature in Schenectady, New York. The first of two trips to Canada, I had finally arrived to teach at our client's location.

In fact, during the past 12 months, Siemens Power Academy has conducted more than a dozen such on-site courses both domestically and internationally. Conveniently held on location, these on-site courses offer our clients maximum scheduling and content flexibility, and enable targeted training to specific groups according to specialized skill level. These on-site courses also give our clients an opportunity to explore topics that are relevant to their particular company needs, while bypassing topics that their employees have already mastered.

For example, a client in Jackson, Mississippi requested a three-day customized version of two of our regular course offerings – "What's New in PSS®E Version 32", and "Managing and Utilizing Transmission Systems (PSS®MUST)". Typically, each of these courses is taught over a three-day period. However, this client chose only select topics of interest from each full course, tailoring their three-day course content to fit their company's needs. The resulting "hybrid" course was attended by a dozen or so employees of varied skill level. As such, this course both covered the basics and offered a few advanced topics, allowing more senior engineers an opportunity to mentor new hires during the course and beyond the classroom.

Learning that extends beyond the classroom is often an added benefit of our on-site course offerings. Employees participating in on-site courses are in familiar surroundings. They are also learning with colleagues who understand and share each other's specific professional concerns. As such, course discussions are relevant to our clients' precise systems, allowing learning to extend beyond the hypothetical to specific company objectives and adding value to the course.

Another example of a recent on-site customized course that combined "Modeling Renewables", "Optimal Power Flow" and "Advanced PSS®E Power Flow" was for a customer in Birmingham, Alabama. Course participants there spent a significant amount of class time discussing the modeling of Photo-Voltaic (PV).

Some of our clients need to train for a large number of employees like the 2011 PSS®E training in Tema, Ghana, where 28 engineers attended. Our on-site offerings provide additional value as they save these clients considerable costs in travel and lodging expenses and reduce the complexity when international travel is required. This is especially true for international clients where lengthy visa application process can complicate travel abroad.

We encourage you to consider Siemens Power Academy's on-site courses for your next training. They provide customized solutions that can be tailored for system-specific content and offer the best value for large groups or where extensive travel and living expenses make training cost prohibitive. Remember, Siemens Power Academy welcomes you – from Schenectady to Timbuktu!