



# UWA & ERGT Australia

## University-Industry Partnership Leading to Substantial Developments in Safety Training and Safety Leadership

In 2010, [ERGT Australia](#) and researchers at The University of Western Australia's (UWA) [Centre for Safety](#) (C4S) embarked on a long-term partnership to support the development of relevant and effective safety skills, and behavioural research and education. The partnership stimulates a transfer of knowledge and experience between industry and academia to:

1. Ensure that **academic research is practical and relevant** to industry; and
2. Ensure that **industry practices are supported by solid evidence**.

In 2015, ERGT Australia and the [C4S became official partners](#) – a reflection of the commitment to improving research and industry practices. The collaboration has resulted in many successful research projects which have increased our knowledge about the best ways to manage and improve safety in the high risk environments posed by the oil and gas industry.

### C4S-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS: A STEP CHANGE IN SAFETY



# Successful Research Collaborations

## IMPROVING INDUSTRY PRACTICE



The C4S specialises in cutting-edge research methods, which directly supports ERGT Australia in improving their industry practices. In a recent [project](#), the C4S and ERGT Australia investigated what leadership behaviours and team practices contribute to the effectiveness of incident command teams. C4S researchers observed real incident response teams and incident commanders undergo highly realistic simulation training at ERGT facilities. This research has not only helped to improve [ERGT's Incident Command Training](#) to ensure leaders are better prepared for an incident, but has also substantially increased our understanding of what drives optimal incident command team performance.

## SUPPORTING WORLD CLASS RESEARCH

Apart from leveraging the C4S' expertise to improve their industry practices, ERGT Australia also play a key role in supporting world class research by providing our researchers with opportunities to collect data from participants going through ERGT courses. Recently, C4S researchers gathered data from managers who underwent [ERGT's Safe Supervisors Competence Program](#) and were able to use this data to better understand safety commitment in leaders. In the near future C4S researchers and ERGT Australia will work together to support the C4S' government research grant investigating the [causes and consequences of safety climate in the maritime industry](#).



## LEVERAGING INDUSTRY FUNDING

Collaborative projects between the C4S and industry partners such as ERGT Australia often have lasting value and impact, forming foundations for subsequent successful government research grant applications. For example, C4S researchers were awarded a long term prestigious government funded [ARC Discovery Grant](#) to build on their previous research with ERGT Australia on leadership behaviours in incident command teams.

## GLOBAL IMPACT AND DEVELOPMENT



*IM4DC trainees undergoing the CSTP at ERGT Australia.*

Over the last three years, the C4S in collaboration with UWA's Accelerated Learning Lab ran an [Occupational Safety & Health Leadership course](#) for representatives from governments, civil society organisations and academic institutions from developing countries as part of UWA's involvement with The International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC)

ERGT Australia was a major partner in the OSH course, facilitating the Common Safety Training Program (CSTP) for the participants at The Oil & Gas Safety Training Centre in Jandakot, Perth. The CSTP is an industry mandated initiative designed to instil a core foundation of safety skills. This was an invaluable element of the course, with participants gaining hands on experience that they could then pass on to others upon returning to their respective developing countries.



## Continuing Collaborations

The C4S will be collaborating with ERGT Australia in an upcoming research project funded by an [ARC Discovery Grant](#). This project continues previous work by uncovering the dynamics of leadership behaviours in a range of rarely studied emergency critical industries such as medicine.

The C4S and ERGT look toward the future with much excitement and anticipation, as this partnership continues to create and support many more research projects that will not only improve safety in the oil and gas industry but also across other safety critical industries.

## Get Involved

The C4S continues to support partnerships between academia and industry in order to better understand the human and organisational factors that create safe systems.

If you or your organisation would like to get involved, please contact the Centre for Safety (details below).

---

## About the UWA Centre for Safety:

The UWA Centre for Safety (C4S) is a hub for cutting edge research, innovative ideas, and practical solutions across the field of work safety.

The C4S was formed out of a partnership between Rio Tinto and The University of Western Australia. C4S Director Professor Mark Griffin and the C4S team are dedicated to solving important safety challenges, and creating sustainable organisational change.

The C4S brings together world renowned experts across disciplines including Psychology, Engineering, Medicine, Business, Law and Health Science. This unique multidisciplinary approach towards safety provides critical insights into current industry concerns.

By encouraging collaborations between research, industry and government, the C4S is leading the way for safety innovation.

## ERGT IN PROFILE

[ERGT Australia](#) is a leading commercial training organisation providing emergency response and safety skills training to high risk industries such as oil and gas. ERGT Australia provides professional, engaging and safe training services, and specialise in the use of simulated environments to develop skills and behaviours in an effective hands-on manner. ERGT Australia operates two Oil & Gas Safety Training Centres: Jandakot, Western Australia and Altona, Victoria. Both centres immerse trainees in a simulated high-risk environment that is designed to best prepare them for working in the Oil & Gas or other high-risk industries.

