

REPORT

EXCURSION TO SPERRE INTERNATIONAL

5 MARCH 2016

Participants: 20 students from the West Coast Technical College

Duration: Five hours + travel

Travel: 1 hour's drive by bus to and from Sperre International

Agenda: Visit to the company's Technical & Research Department and their Robotics plant

Twenty students from the West Coast Technical College visited Sperre International yesterday in order to get an introduction to their special research into the field of robotics. After the visit at their lab, we also studied examples of how the company's research is exchanged into practical usage in their robotics plant.

We had had one week of preparing for the visit, studying charts and brochures describing the extent of development work at their research laboratory. Several former students from our technical college turned out to be working in the Sperre lab. They gave very interesting and detailed descriptions of the transition from studies to engineering work. This was a quite useful half hour, considering that many of us intend to follow a similar way into the robotics industry.

One of the members of the communications staff then introduced the Sperre public relations work. This was a new experience. I do not believe that any of us had really understood the importance of public relations knowledge and usage when communicating with both suppliers and buyers, not to forget the general public.

After these two introductions, we had a very nice lunch, and all the former students from our college were invited to share this with us, a very nice and welcome part of the excursion.

After lunch we went into the robotics plant to see for ourselves what the charts and drawings really meant when put into practice. It was an impressive plant, robots working around the clock, never tiring or shutting down. Robotics clearly does a good job taking care of processes that are repetitive and boring for humans, making people free to concentrate on more interesting tasks.

The engineers working in the Technical & Research department really enjoy their jobs. They took time to answer all kinds of questions afterwards, and carefully explained some of the difficult charts. They also introduced some good examples of how valuable our technical curriculums really are in preparing us for later careers as technicians or engineers.

The return trip to campus was seriously delayed as communications between the college and the bus company had failed. This gave us an extra hour's wait, but the visit had been so interesting that we were able to shorten the time by studying and discussing the various brochures and other material handed to us before we left Sperre International.

All in all, a very good and useful excursion, absolutely recommendable.

Aalesund, 6 March 2016

Niels Nielsen

Student at West Coast Technical College