

WHEN multinational company (MNC) Schneider Electric Asia wanted to train its engineers to brave dangerous terrain to repair their customer's supply management systems, the French firm tapped into virtual reality (VR) technology.

The VR technology is so realistic that it allows the engineer to undergo practical training and safety procedures like in the real world.

Scheider has collaborated with the VR developer company, ATOMAXR, founded by Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Mohamed Musthapa to develop the VR system.

The collaboration between the two companies was recognized last night when they won the Best Technology Collaboration Award (VR Safety Program) at a dinner ceremony and the Collaborative Innovation Award organized by the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICC).

The Minister Responsible for Trade Relations, Mr. S. Iswaran, said the award aims to celebrate commercial collaborations that successfully create new products, services or capabilities.

"It is an excellent example of how MNCs can work together with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to show that size is not a barrier to cooperation," said Encik Iswaran who is also the Transport Minister.

Schneider Electric Asia's Deputy President of Environmental and Property Safety GSC International, Mr Lim Chee Kiang, said his firm leveraged ATOMAXR's extensive experience to develop a realistic and effective VR training module.

"This helps train and drive change in the actions of our industry and field service teams.

"With Schneider Electric's robust and secure processes, integrated with ATOMAXR's strong information technology (IT) expertise, we are able to achieve the best of both worlds," said Mr Lim.

Mr. Iqbal, who is also the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of ATOMAXR, expressed gratitude that the VR product created by his company was recognized in the business community.

He formed the company since 2019 to introduce VR especially for the corporate education sector.

His company has five programming experts introducing VR products for companies that want to introduce training programs for their staff.

"Through VR, Schneider can use VR in other countries. It is also safer to use, more timesaving and can be used when it is needed compared to traditional training," said Mr. Iqbal, 41, who has a university degree in business. and certification in mechatronics and programming.

He worked with Schneider to simulate various dangerous scenarios that could occur in the workplace.

ATOMAXR has also collaborated with the Marina Bay Sands company to develop Augmented Reality for workplace safety training.