

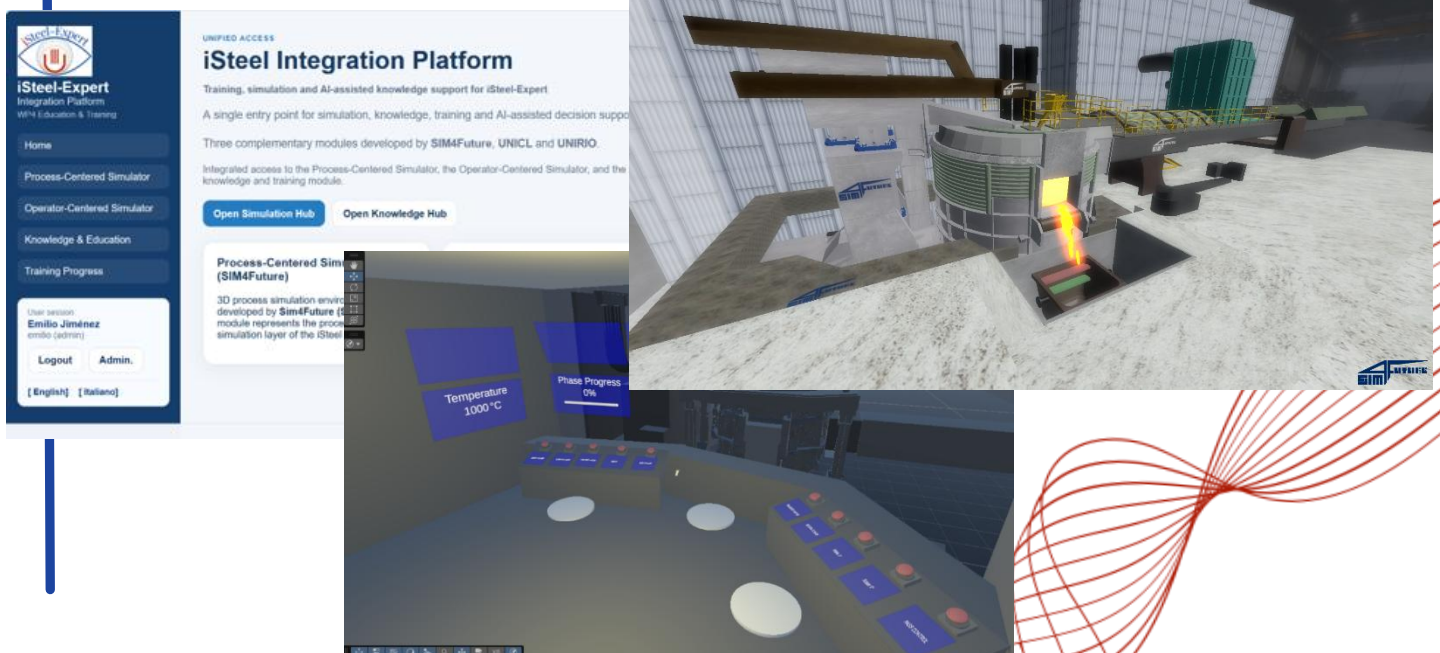
iSteel-Expert Newsletter No 7

The iSteel-Expert project is approaching its conclusion, and the realization of the first pilot **remote expert virtual system** for EAF continuous monitoring is being finalised. To support workers' upskilling and facilitate the system introduction in steelworks, a training platform has been developed. The work carried out during the last project phase focused on bringing together the different developments into a common training and expert-support environment for EAF operation.

The integrated training platform

The iSteel Integrated Platform now provides centralized access to the full set of course materials and training tools. Through a single browser-based environment, authorized users can access the Learning Platform developed by SIM4Future, the Virtual Reality training solution developed by Université Catholique de Lille, and the AI-powered expert system created by Universidad de La Rioja. This creates a common entry point for theoretical learning, interactive simulation, immersive training, and document-based knowledge support.

Learning Platform and Interactive Simulator by SIM4Future: Trainees can now study the EAF heat cycle and then immediately apply the corresponding procedures in a controlled simulation environment. The platform includes traditional training materials reinforced by interactive procedures such as tapping, deslagging and other operational activities. This approach supports learning by doing.



Virtual Reality Training: The Université Catholique de Lille Virtual Reality training platform has been demonstrated at SiderPotenza using a VR headset. The system covers the complete heat cycle, allowing trainees to perform a full training session after completing the first part of the course on the Learning Platform. The two systems share most of the 3D models and audio effects, ensuring consistency between training experiences.

AI-Based Expert Support: The Integrated Platform created by Universidad de La Rioja also includes an AI-powered expert system developed to provide interactive access to the project knowledge base. Users can consult document-based technical information through a modern chat-based interface, supporting knowledge reinforcement and operational understanding.

All main components are ready and working. The partners are now focusing on final refinements, usability improvements and adjustments.



Dissemination

The AI-based solution for monitoring the EAF operations was presented at the **Annual Iron and Steel technology Conference and Exposition AISTech 2026**, held in **Pittsburgh** (USA) on May 4-7 2026.

Moreover, the Final Workshop of iSteel-Expert was held in the form of a Special Session of the **European Electric Steelmaking Conference EEC2026**, which was held in Milan on May 11-13, 2026. Four presentations deriving from the project were discussed in front of a very lively audience of about 120 persons. A booth dedicated to the project was also set up the same event, enabling further dissemination and communication of the results of the project.

